

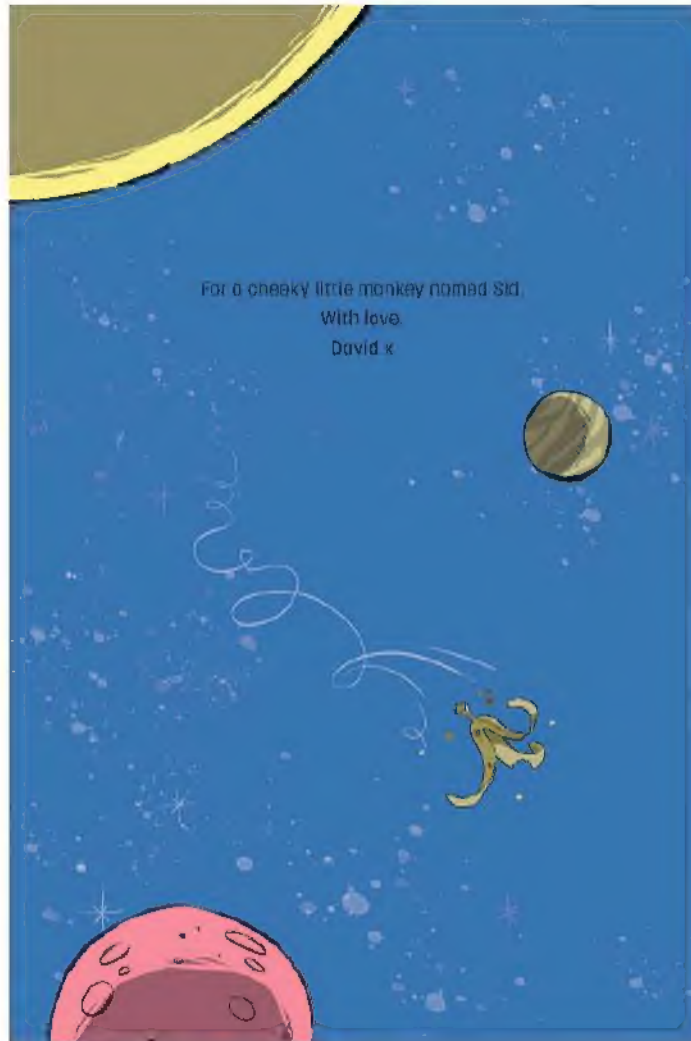
MULTI-MILLION BESTSELLING AUTHOR

David Walliams



# ASTRO CHIMP

ILLUSTRATED BY ADAM STOWER



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THE WORLD'S WORST TEACHERS

THE WORLD'S WORST PARENTS

THE WORLD'S WORST PETS

THE WORLD'S WORST MONSTERS

THE SLIGHTLY ANNOYING ELEPHANT

THE FIRST HIPPO ON THE MOON

THE BEAR WHO WENT BOO!

THERE'S A SNAKE IN MY SCHOOL!

BOOGIE BEAR

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MARMALADE: THE ORANGE PANDA

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 GANGSTA GRANNY STRIKES AGAIN!  
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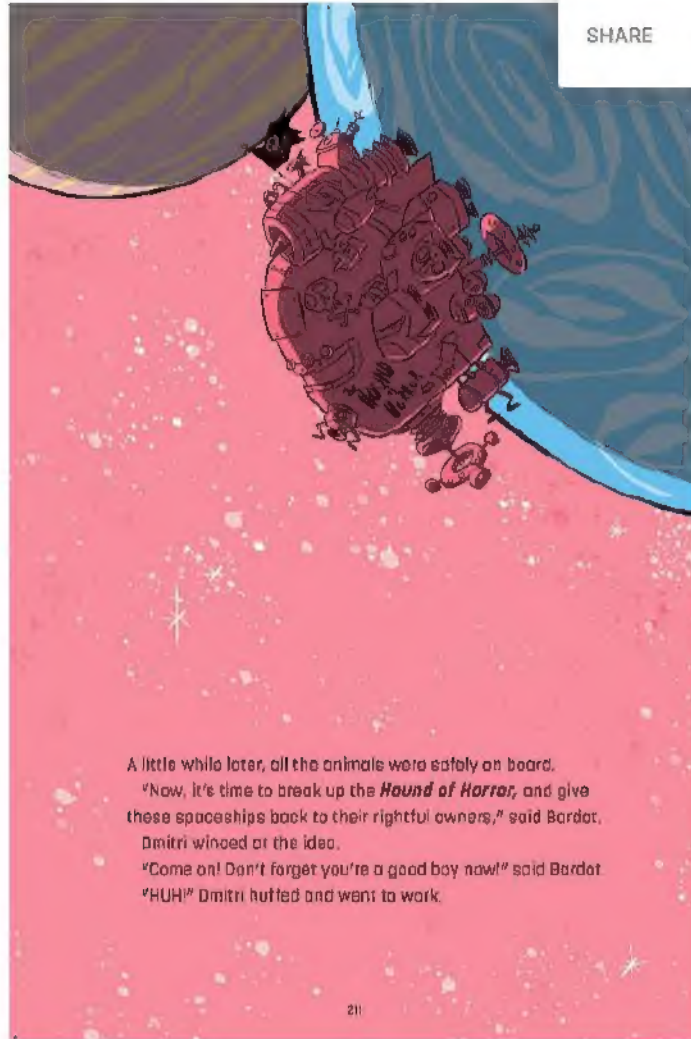
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## ANIMALS IN SPACE

the real animals that were blasted into space.

- ☀ France really did send a **cat** into space. In 1963, Félicette was sent up in a Veronique rocket. She survived her flight and has been honoured with a bronze statue in France, so she will never be forgotten.
- ☀ Argentina joined the space race in 1967 by launching a **rat** named Belisario into space on a Yadoro rocket.
- ☀ Russia sent up two **tortoises** on *Zond 5* in 1968. They became the first animals to be blasted into deep space and circle the moon.
- ☀ Cross **spiders** named Anita and Arabella followed, joining astronauts on the US rocket *Skylab 3* in 1973.
- ☀ And in case you were thinking that **gerbils** were never blasted into space, they were! Russia sent them up in 2007! Their mission was to see if humans could survive a trip to Mars. One day, we might even see gerbils living on Mars.



*Actually, that's a cool idea for a story...*





## A BRIEF HISTORY OF

All the characters in *Astrochimp* are based on

**Fruit flies** were indeed the first creatures to be sent into space. In 1947 it was a US mission on a V-2 rocket. At that time, no one knew if any animal could survive in space. These fruit flies proved they could.

Then, in 1949, there followed a rhesus macaque **monkey**, named Albert II. Again, this was a US mission using a V-2 rocket. Albert I was the first animal in space, if you don't count the fruit flies. Sadly, he died when the rocket's parachute failed to open on his return to Earth.

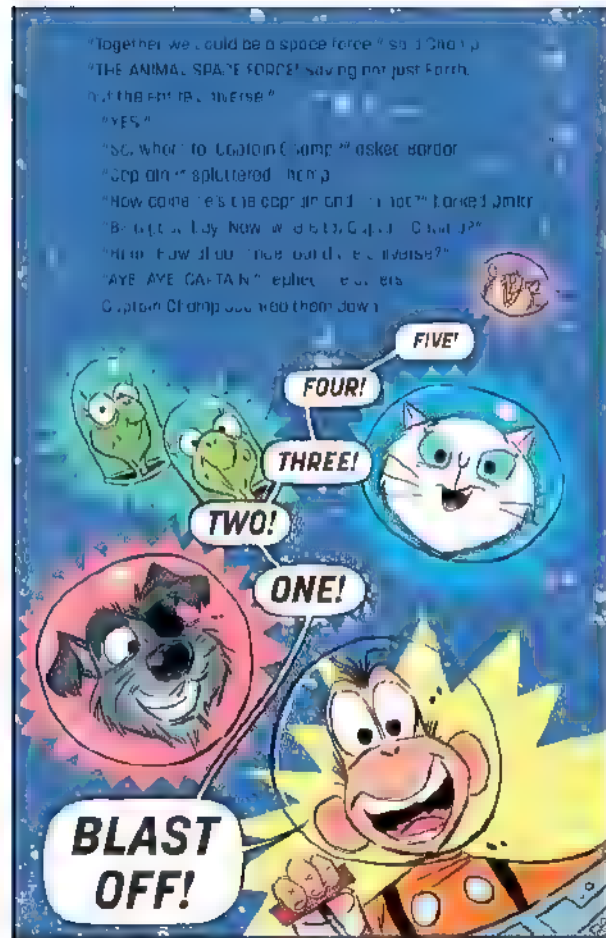
The Russians were not to be outdone by the US. In 1957, they sent a stray **dog** named Laika on *Sputnik 2* to orbit Earth. She did not survive, but is still famous around the world. In Russia, there is a statue of the heroic Laika, and she is ever commemorated on stamps and boxes of matches.

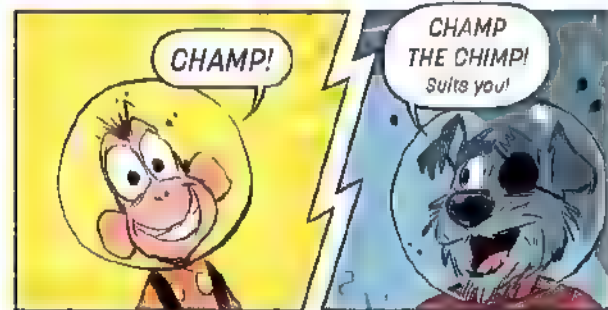
As the space race heated up between these two competing nations, the US responded in 1959 by sending a rhesus macaque **monkey** named Miss Able and a squirrel monkey named Miss Baker into space on a Jupiter rocket. They made history by becoming the first monkeys to safely return to Earth.

Chimp was inspired by Ham the **chimpanzee**. In 1961 he became the first great ape in space. Ham was even given some responsibility in piloting his Mercury spacecraft. He returned safely to Earth and became a national hero.







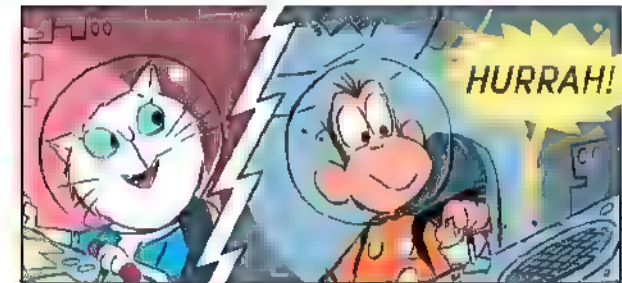


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"WOW!" exclaimed Champ. "Thank you!"

"You don't have to thank me," replied Bardot. "We all must thank you, Champ, for saving Earth!"

With that, all the other creatures gave Champ a cheer.



You know who to call in an emergency!

Who, dear?

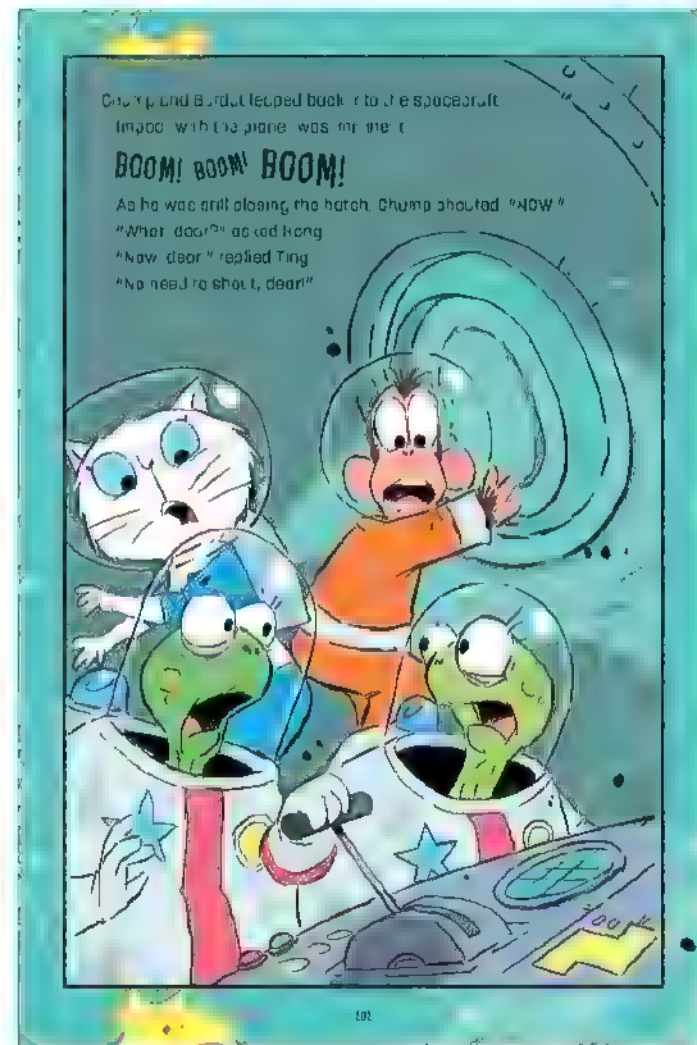
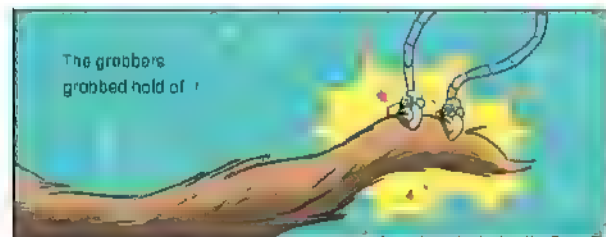
US, DEAR!

NO NEED TO SHOUT, DEAR!

I AM NOT SHOUTING!

YES! YOU! ARE! DEAR!









The chimp was right. That fluffy thing as thick as a tree trunk was indeed Choi's tail!

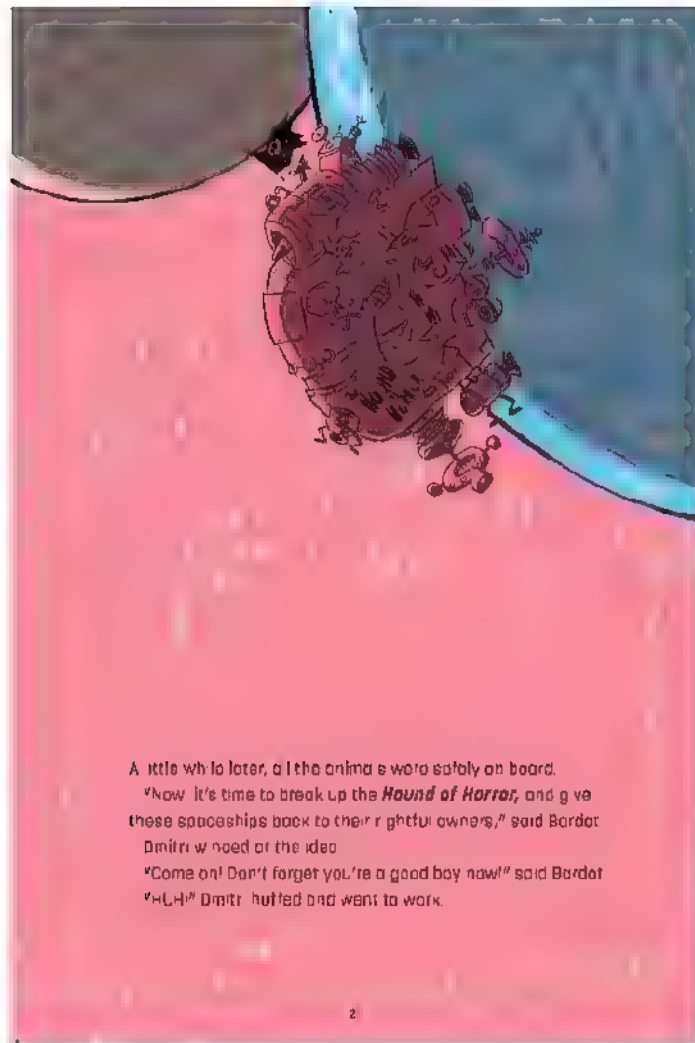
**BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!**

Using all their strength, the chimp, the dog and the cat lifted it. Bardot gave a signal to the tortoises. Ting and Hong lowered their rocket until it was hovering over the tip of the tail. Then, with the rocket's metal grabbers, they reached out to grasp it.

Just as it was within reach,  
the craft took a HUGE HIT!

**KERANK!**





## EPISODE TWELVE

THIS WAS THE DEADLIEST MISSION OF ALL!  
TO SEND A GIANT GERBIL BACK UP  
A BLACK HOLE!

**ONE!** The gang took Chot, by surprise and grabbed hold of her tail.  
**TWO!** They tied the end of her tail to the missile.  
**THREE!** Dmitri powered the missile through space.  
**FOUR.** They found the end of a black hole.  
**FIVE!** They leaped off the missile just in time.  
**SIX!** The missile pulled Chot into the black hole.  
**SEVEN!** The gang all held on to Bardot, who powered them through space.  
**EIGHT!** They reached the mouth of the black hole, keeping a safe distance so they would not be sucked in themselves.  
**NINE!** They waited. And waited some more.  
**TEN!** A minuscule missile shot out, towing a little gerbil.

EEK!

The gang zoomed over to catch hold of the gerbil and untied her tail from the missile.

"EEK?" squeaked little Chot.

"Speak Gerbil!" replied Bardot. "EEK! EEK! EEEEK! EEK!"

"EEK," agreed Chot.

"What did you tell her?" asked Dmitri.

"The whole story now. Chimp, you keep Chot safe!"

The chimp cradled the gerbil in his hand, and placed her inside his spacesuit.

"Where to now?" asked Bardot.

"Let's find my ship!" said Dmitri.

"Our ships."

"Sorry. Our ship!"

They zoomed off into space in search of the *Hound of Horror*.  
Just as Bardot's jetpack was about to run out of power.

THERE!

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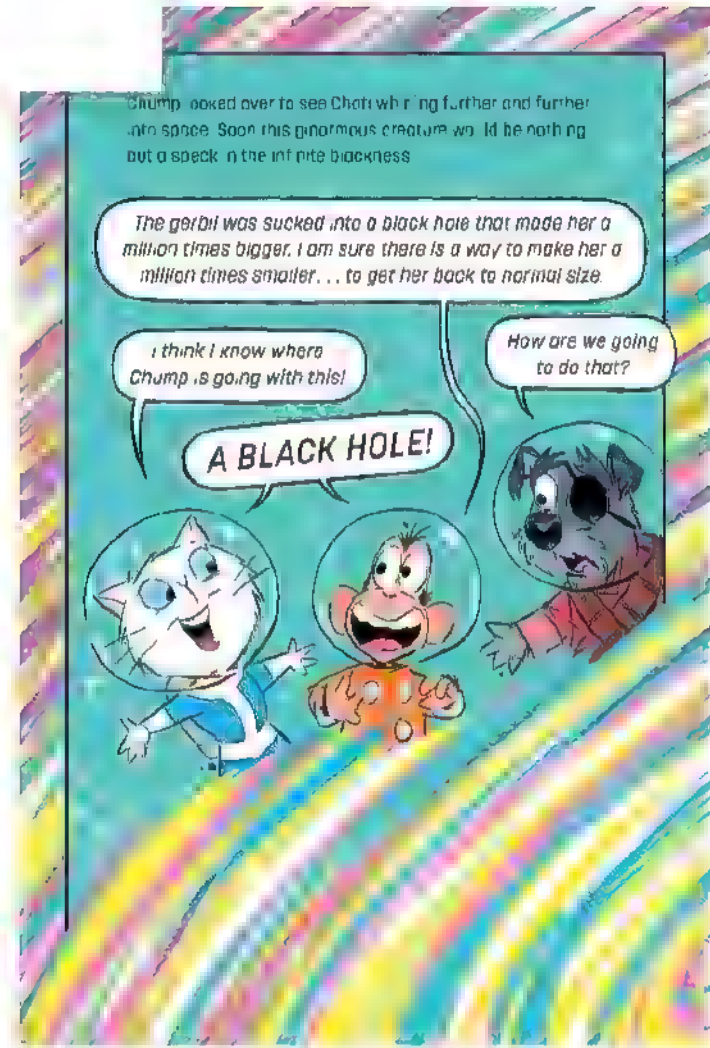
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Never upset a gerb. Especially not a giant one. Gerbs may be cute and fluffy, but they BITE!

As she was dragged through space by her tail, Choti arched her back and went in for the kill!

# CHOMP!

"IT'S THE END!" cried Bardot.

The gerbil's giant, razor-sharp teeth bit the rocket in two.

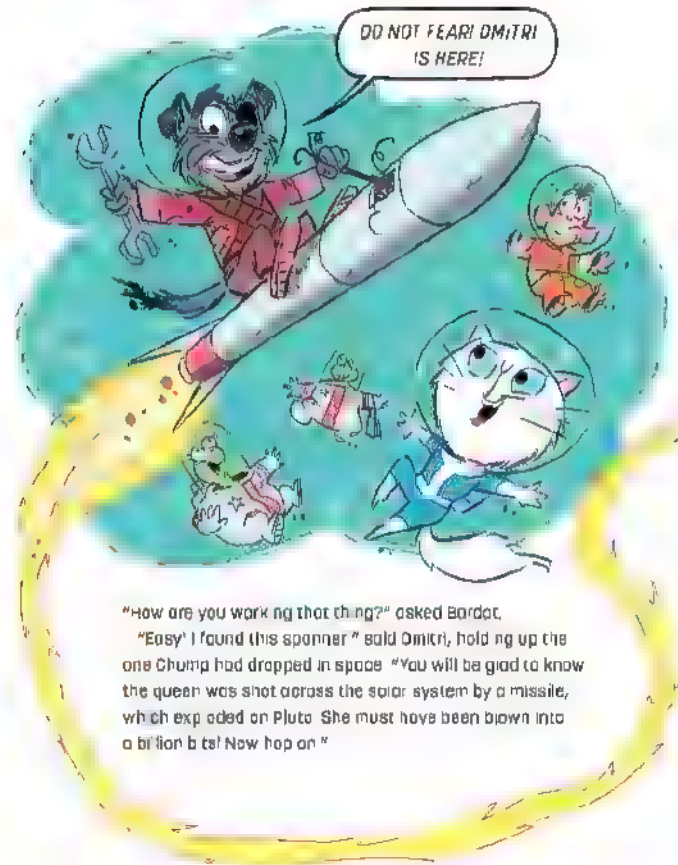
"ARGHHH!" they cried  
spinning into space.



But who should come to the rescue, sitting astride a missile?

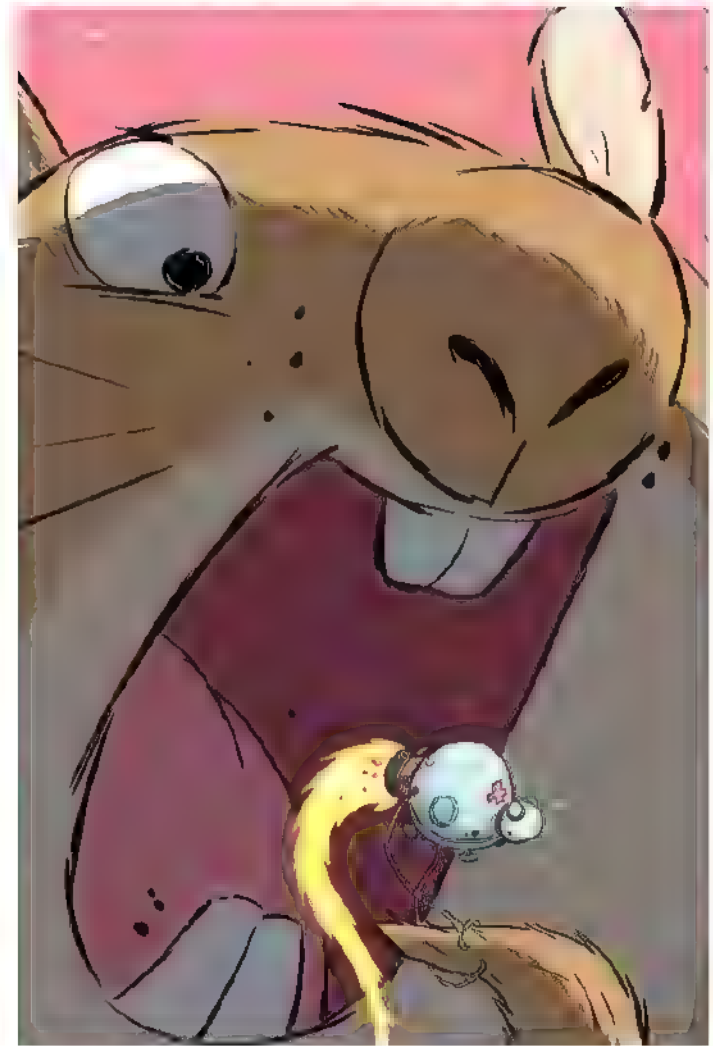
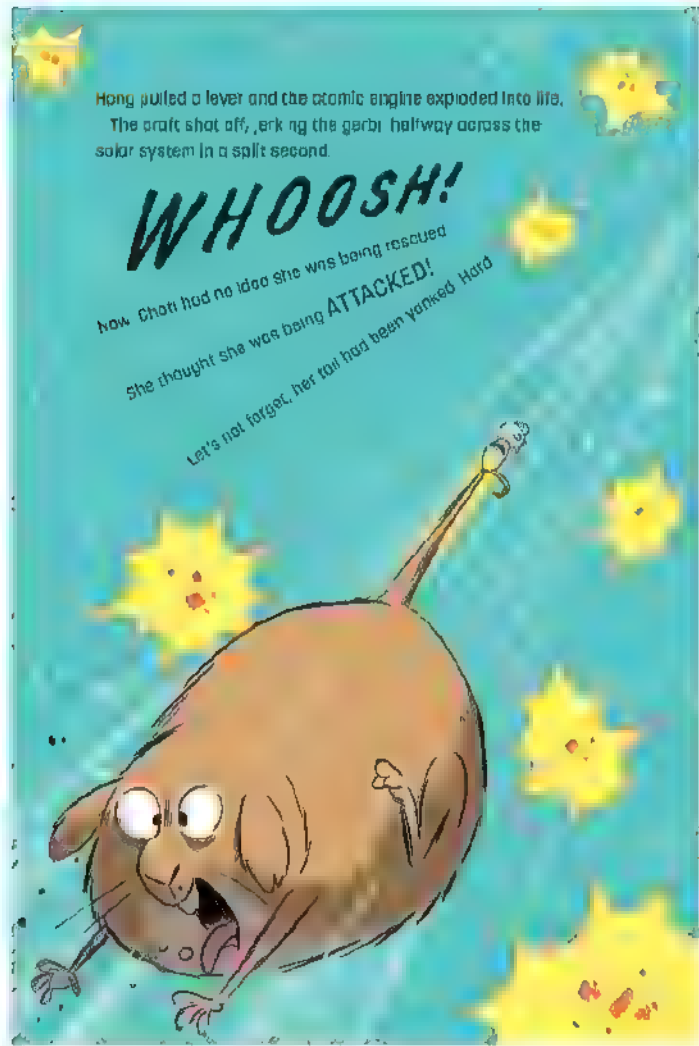
Dmitri! Flying the missile like a winged horse, controlling its every twist and turn.

DO NOT FEAR! DMITRI  
IS HERE!



"How are you working that thing?" asked Bardot.

"Easy! I found this spinner!" said Dmitri, holding up the one Chomp had dropped in space. "You will be glad to know the queen was shot across the solar system by a missile, which exploded on Pluto. She must have been blown into a billion bits! Now hop on!"



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"But how? Gerbils don't have steering wheels!"  
"No. But they do have tails!" said Chimp. "If our  
finder tail, we might be able to track it back to base!"



**POOM! BOOM! BOOM!**

The explosions boosted our heroes off their feet, but still  
they surged forward, on their hunt for the creature's tail!  
The giant gerbil was now dangerously close to Earth

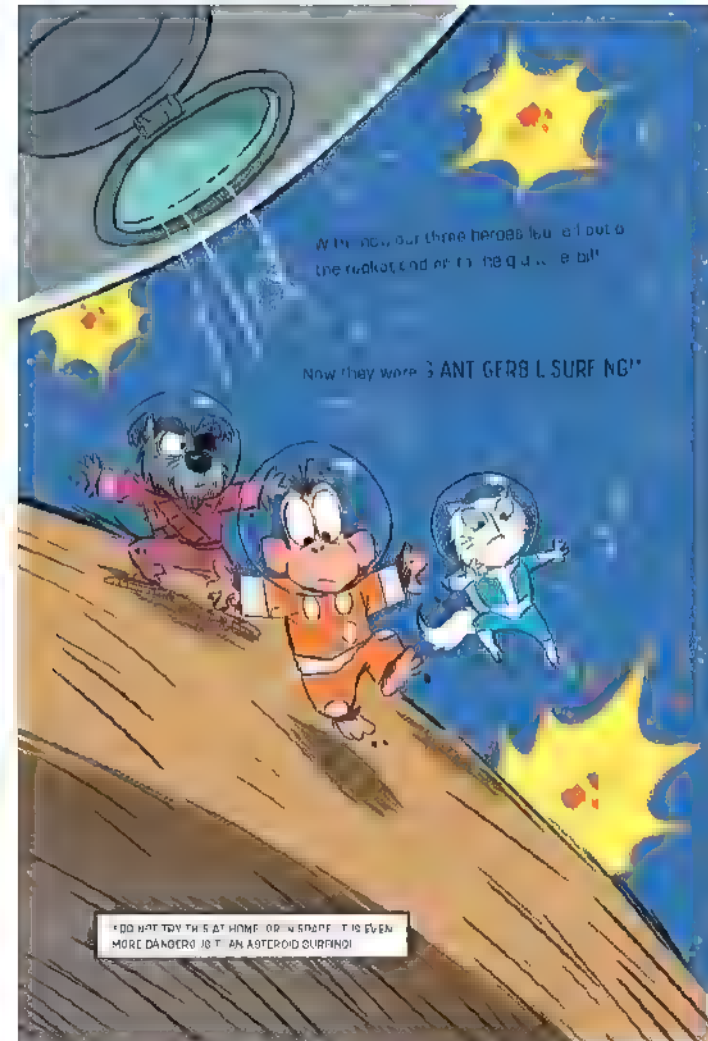
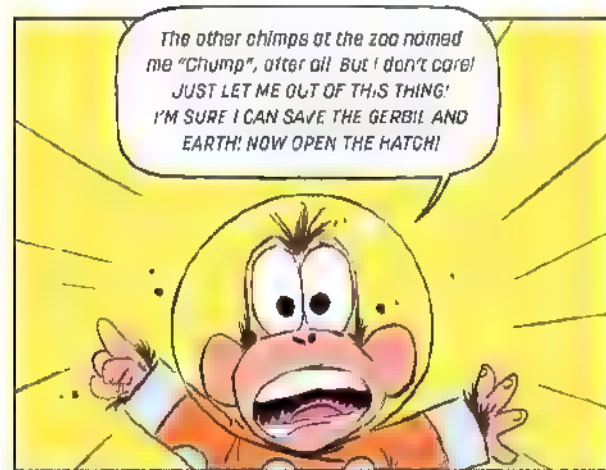


Only when Chump tripped over something, did he realise what it was

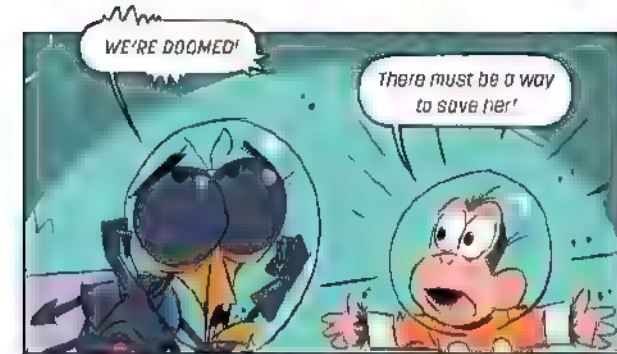




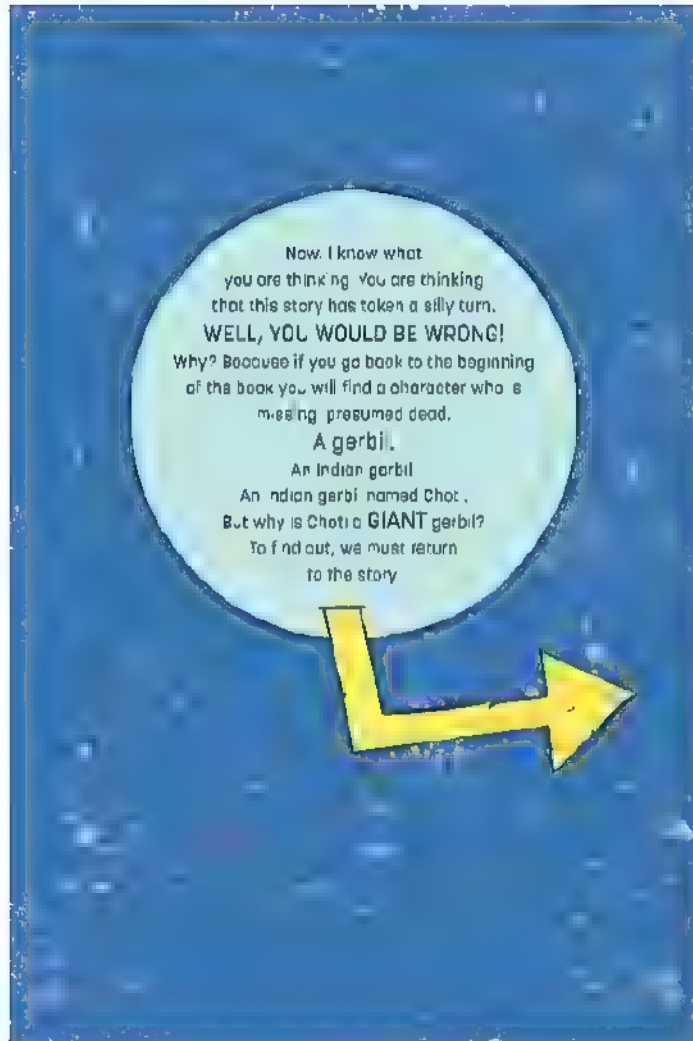




\*DO NOT TRY THIS AT HOME OR WENDIE. IT IS EVEN MORE DANGEROUS THAN AN ASTEROID SURFING!







"That gerbil must have suffered the same fate as us fruit  
flies!" said the queen.

"A BLACK HOLE!" said Bardot.

"YES!"

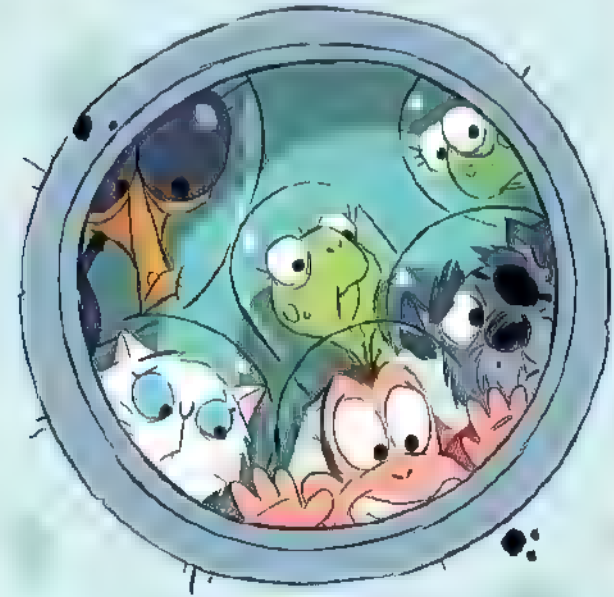
"Why is she rolled up into a ball?" asked Dmitri.

"Lots of animals at the zoo would roll themselves into a ball  
when they were frightened," replied Chump.

"We tortoises disappear into our shells," said Hong.

"Of course!" exclaimed Bardot. "Hurting through that black  
hole must have terrified this creature!"

"And being shot out the other end," agreed Chump.







IT'S A GIANT GERBIL!











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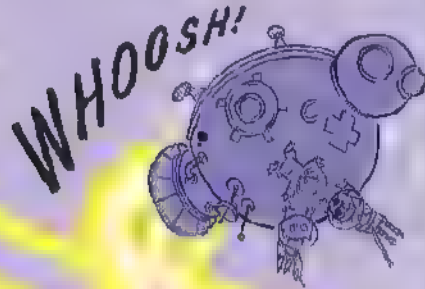
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To avoid being destroyed by the asteroid shower (which is bad, but not as bad as an asteroid bath), the rescue ship made a dramatic turn.



Clinging on for dear life, the three animals were whisked out of the way, and zoomed off in the direction of Earth.

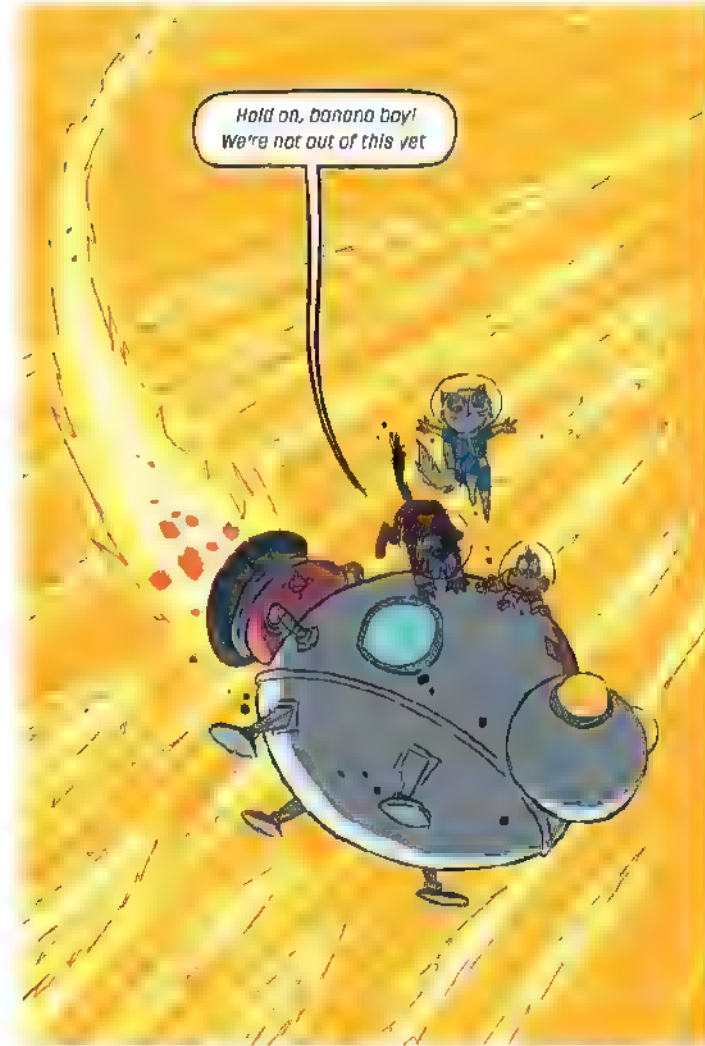
## EPISODE TEN

The atomic rocket, with our heroes now safely back inside, went at atomic speed.

# ZOOOOO

Far ahead, THE MYSTERIOUS GLOBE OF DOOM came into view, at the time looking bigger and bigger as the rocket drew nearer and nearer.





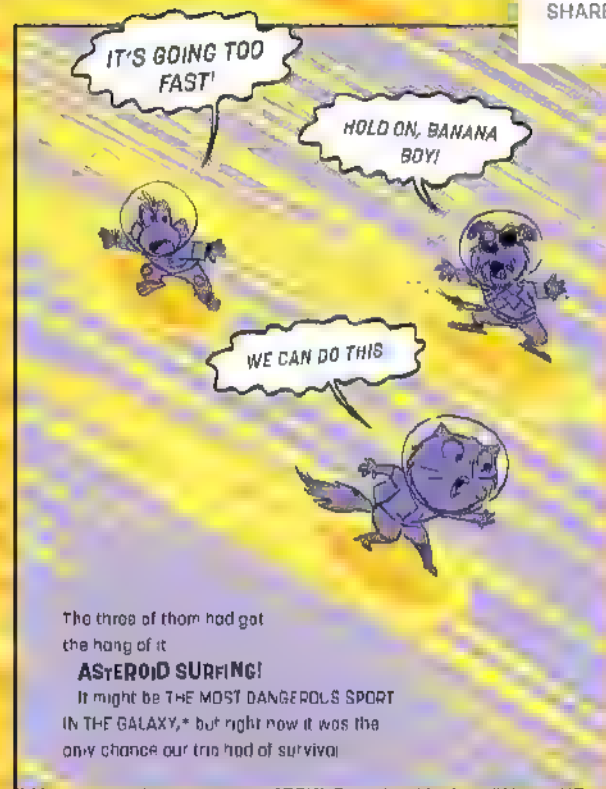
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\* THE MOST DANGEROUS SPORTS IN THE GALAXY ARE  
 5. A. in wrestling with aliens. Some have hundreds of arms.  
 4. Planet football. Never a good idea trying to kick a planet. You might break your leg.  
 3. Sky diving on Neptune. For 100 as a 10% body off.  
 2. Cycling on the sun. Too hot. Tires melt. Bikini melt. You melt.  
 1. Asteroid surfing.



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"DOK! You can still just make out the asteroid field we passed through, which destroyed the pineapple," said Bardot, pointing off into the distance. "If you both hold on tight, I can use my jetpack to shoot us into its path. Come on, boys!"



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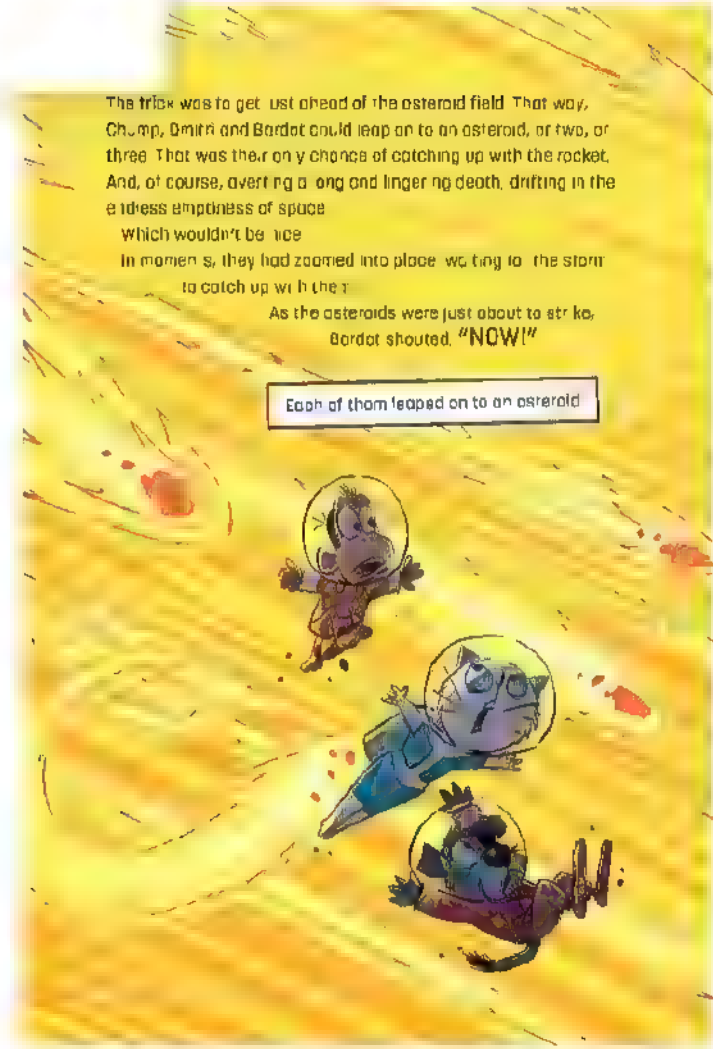
The trick was to get just ahead of the asteroid field. That way, Chump, Dmitri and Bardot could leap on to an asteroid, or two, or three. That was their only chance of catching up with the rocket. And, of course, averting a long and lingering death, drifting in the endless emptiness of space.

which wouldn't be nice.

In moments, they had zoomed into place, waiting for the storm to catch up with them.

As the asteroids were just about to strike, Bardot shouted, "NOW!"

Each of them leaped on to an asteroid.



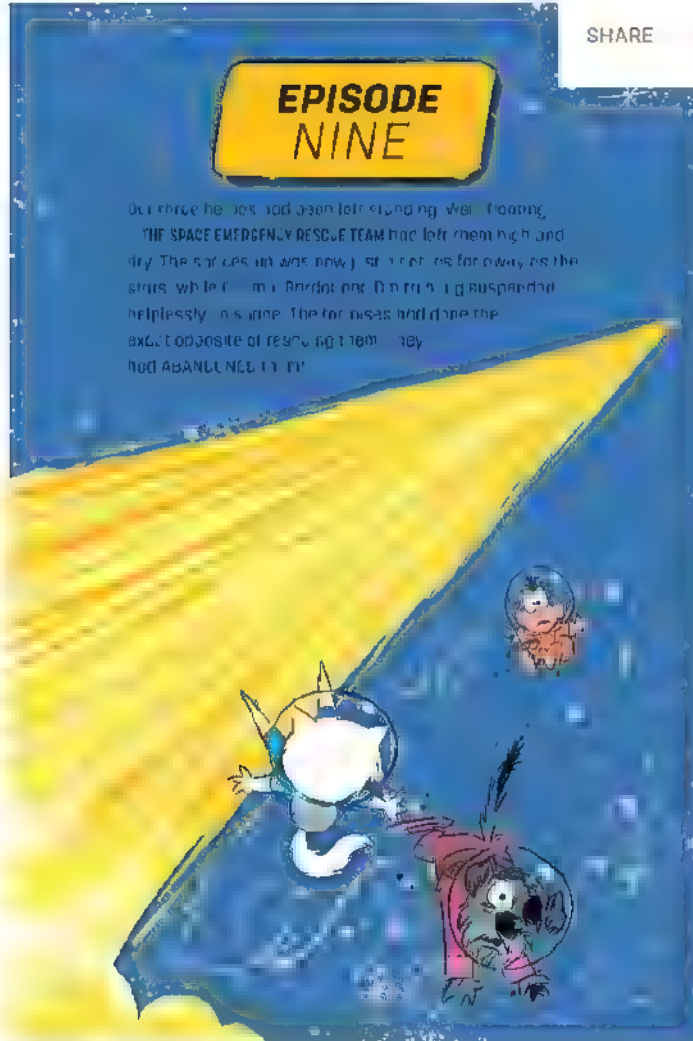


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## EPISODE NINE

Our three heroes had been left standing well floating. THE SPACE EMERGENCY RESCUE TEAM had left them high and dry. The rescue ship was now just a dot as far away as the stars, while Chimp, Bordon and Dora had gasped helplessly in silence. The far away had done the exact opposite of rescuing them. They had ABANDONED THEM!



To everyone's surprise, not least his, it was Chump who had the bright idea.

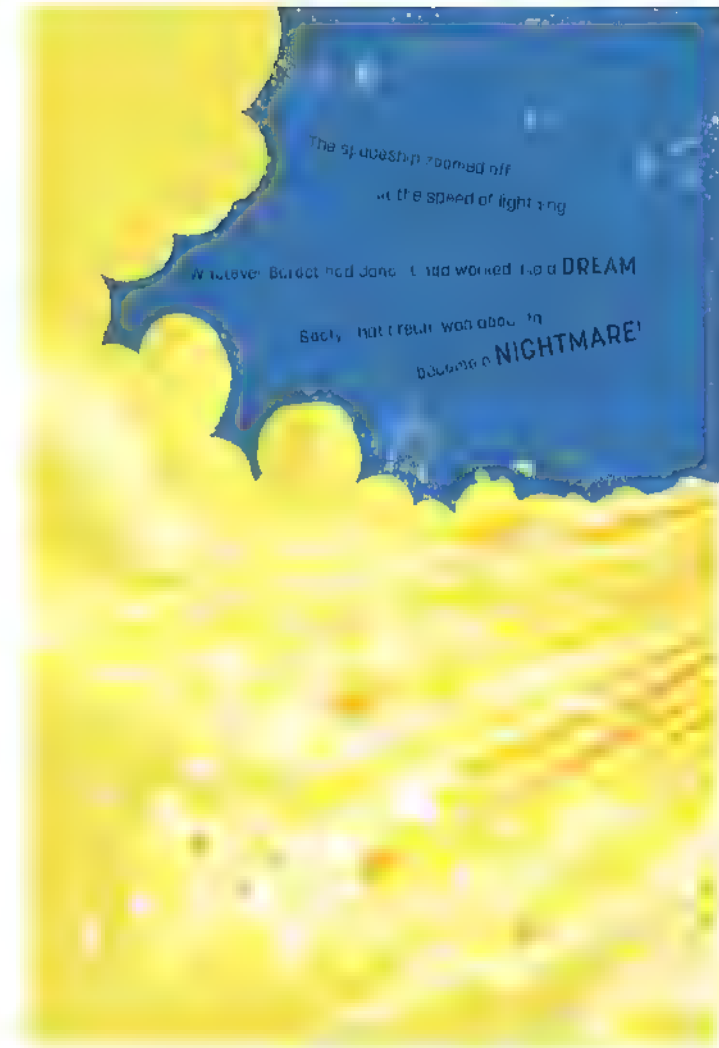
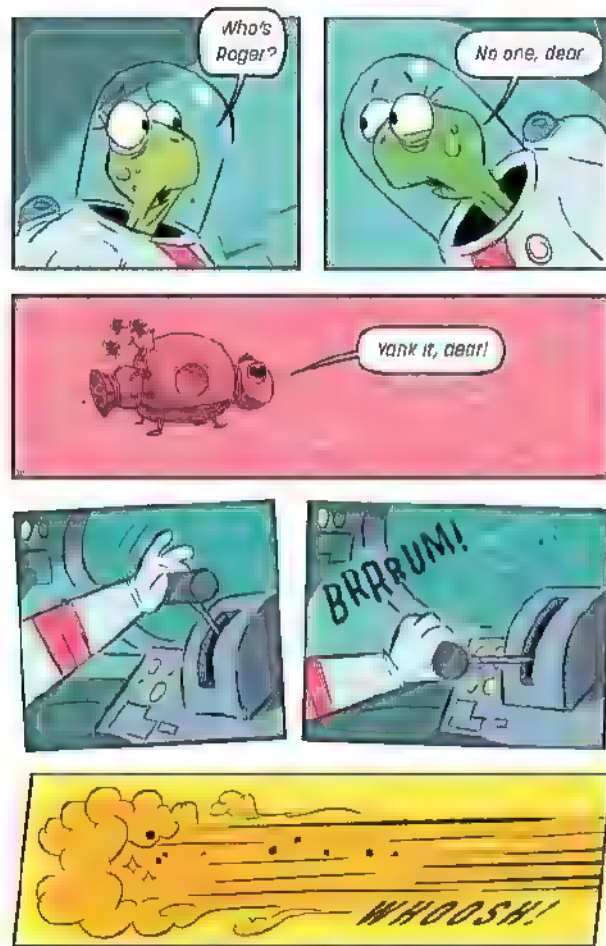
Why don't we  
catch up with them  
on an asteroid?  
They go fast!

But asteroid fields  
are deadly!

Staying out here and  
doing nothing is deadly too!  
Chump's idea is BANANAS  
BUT BRILLIANT!

Thank you!









"THIS IS AN ATOMIC REACTOR!" exclaimed Bardot.

"Like an atomic bomb?" asked Dmitri.

"Exactly!"

"That must be why they chose tortoises for this mission. They had a greater chance of surviving the radiation."

"Well, they have got shells," said Chump.

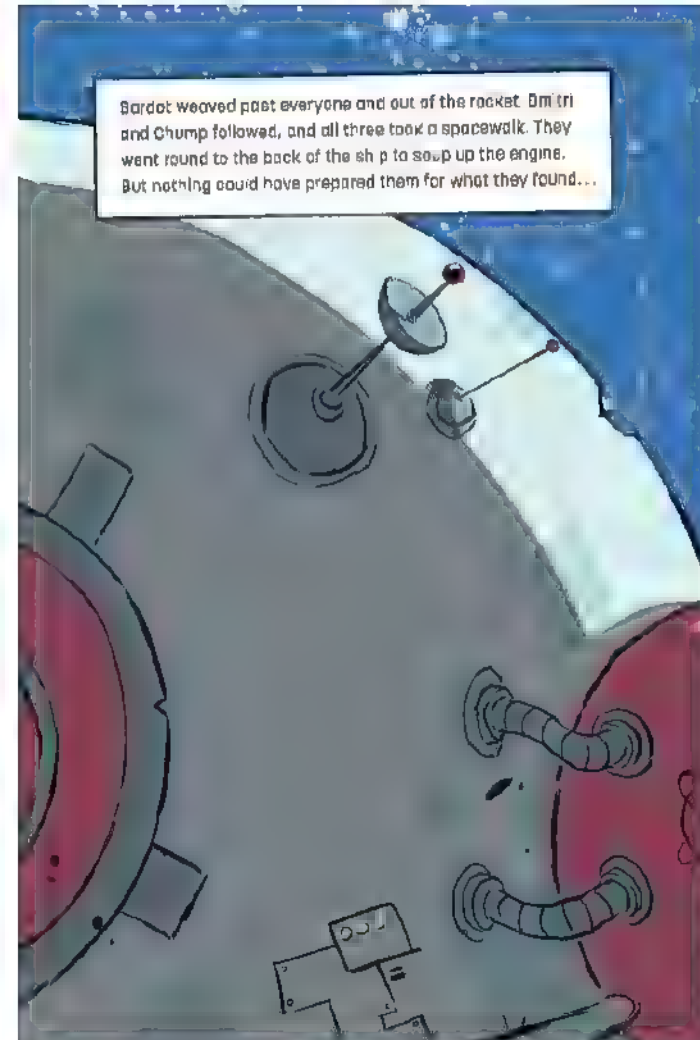
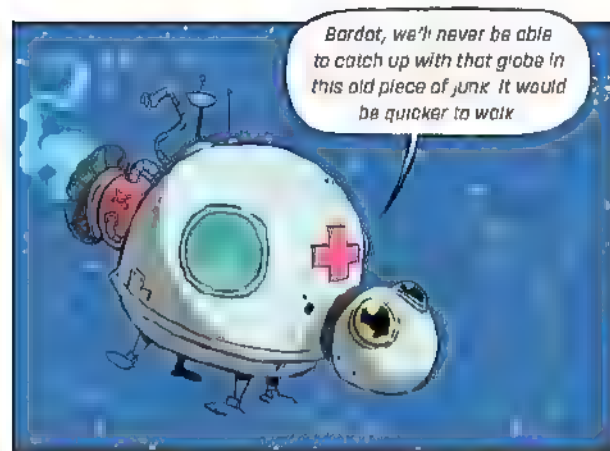
"It's because they're reptiles. Chump. Reptiles were the only creatures who survived the atomic bomb tests in the desert a century ago."

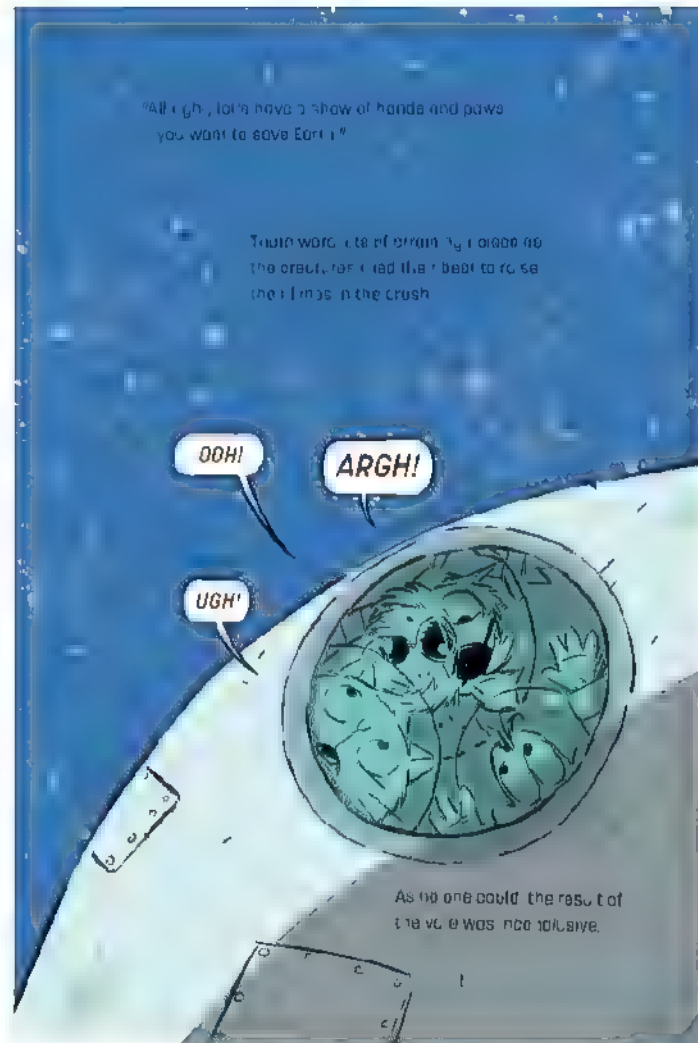
"If it's powered by an atomic reactor, why does this ship go so slowly?" asked Dmitri.

"That's what we've got to find out, boys," said Bardot.





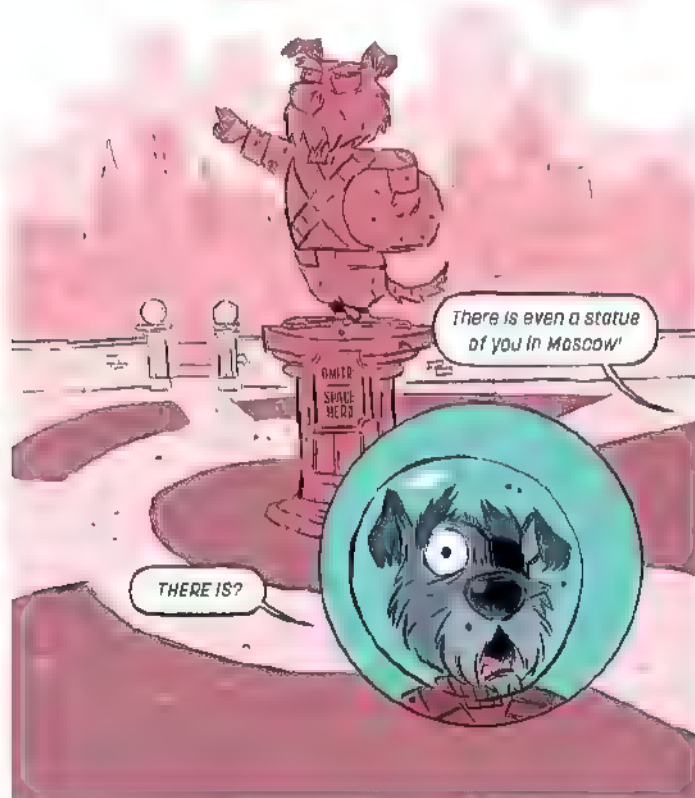




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"That's one way of looking at it," replied Bordot. "Another is that they took you off the streets, sent you on an adventure beyond your wildest dreams and made you the most famous dog of all time!"



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She yanked a lever and the spacecraft junched off at the speed of a snail.

Why should we save Earth?

For a billion reasons!







She yanked a lever, and the spacecraft lurched off at the speed of a moth.

Why should we save Earth?

For a billion reasons!



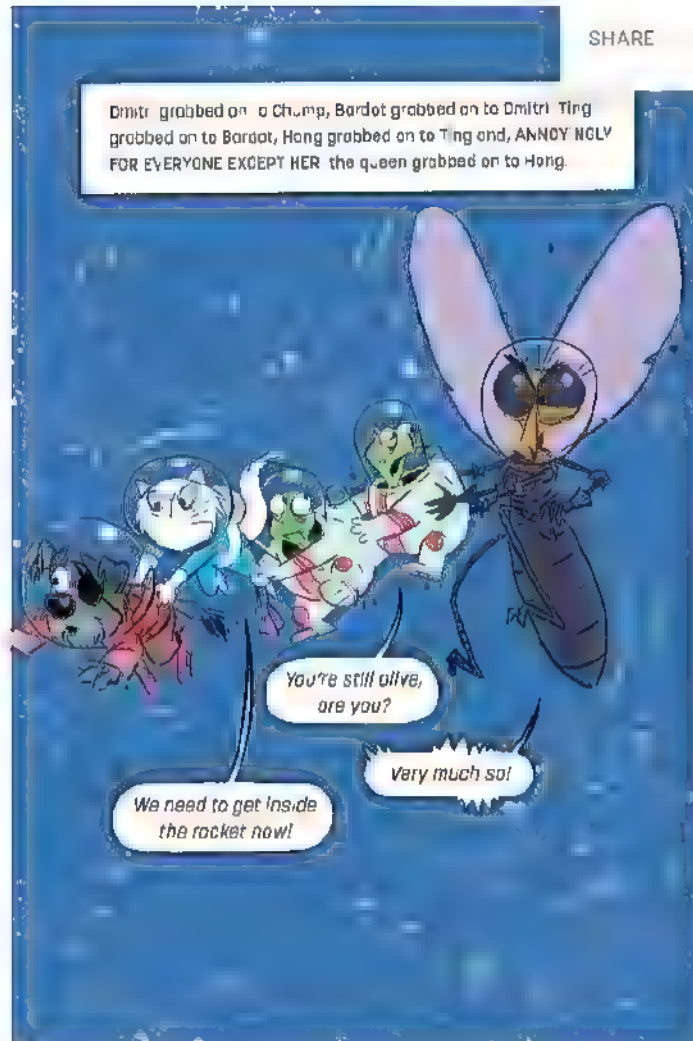
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**THIS PINEAPPLE IS GOING TO SELF-DESTRUCT IN TEN SECONDS!**

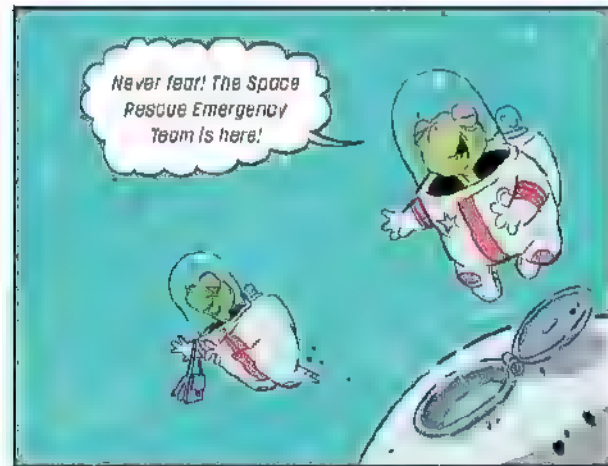
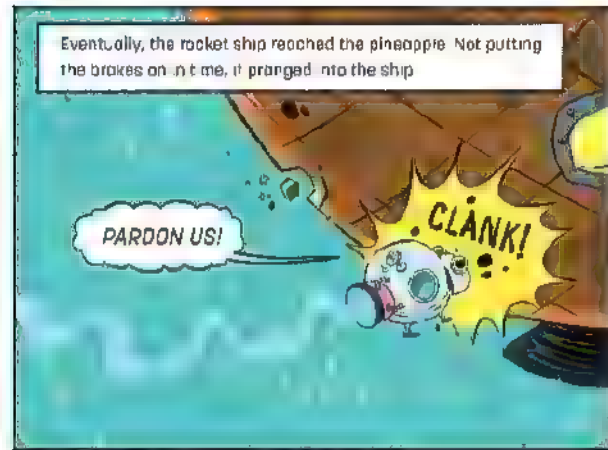
**TEN!**



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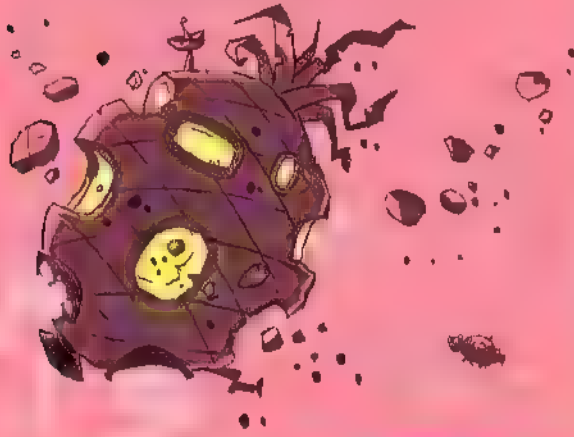
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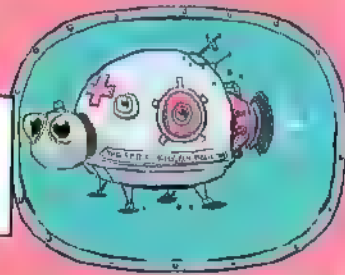
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"LOOK!" exclaimed the queen, pointing out of the porthole.  
In the distance, a creaky old space rocket was idling along.  
**THE SPACE EMERGENCY RESCUE TEAM** was emblazoned  
on the side. But they had run out of space, so the "M" was  
missing. It read:

**THE SPACE EMERGENCY RESCUE TEA**

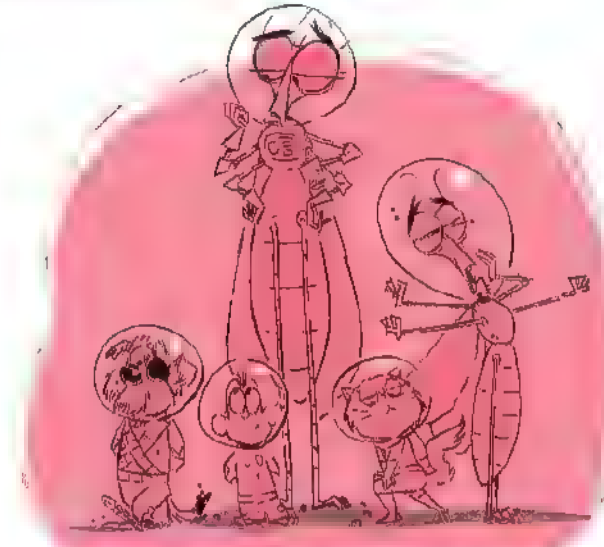


Providing cups of tea in  
emergencies didn't have the  
same sense of drama. Even  
if they come with biscuits



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those aboard the pineapple shifted around awkwardly  
as they waited and waited and waited



The silence was broken by what sounded like **THUNDER!**

**BRRRAPPPFFFT!**



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The radio crackled, and a crackly voice came on

**DO NOT FEAR! THE SPACE EMERGENCY RESCUE TEAM IS ON ITS WAY!**

Space emergency rescue team?

By the time they get here, the emergency will be well and truly over!

Why? Who are they?

Tortoises!

The slowest creatures on Earth had become the fastest when they were fired into space from a Chinese space centre

Once they'd found themselves abandoned up there, Ting and Kong were determined to help others in distress. So they turned their rocket ship into a rescue ship

**THE SPACE EMERGENCY RESCUE TEAM** was born

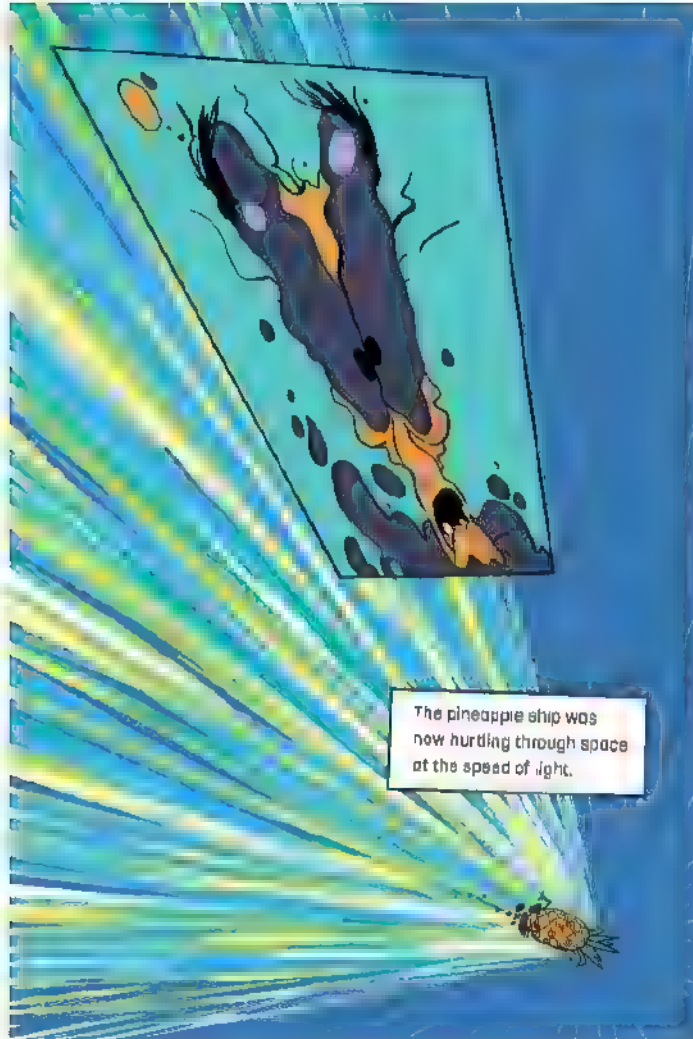
Of course, if you require rescuing, it needs to be fast.

Sadly, these tortoises didn't do fast

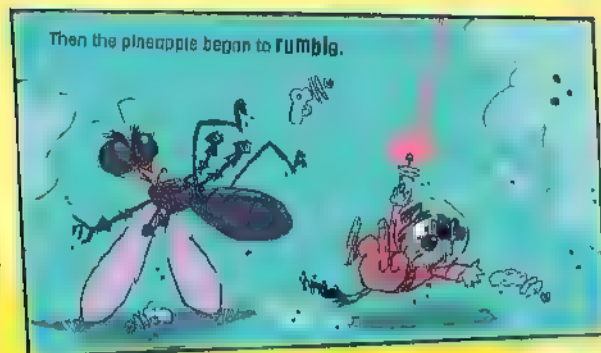
They were the slowest rescue team in the universe!









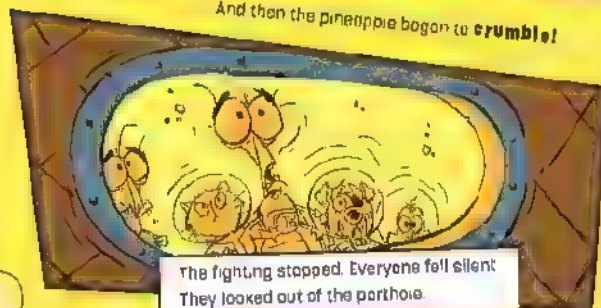


That rumble became a **wobble**

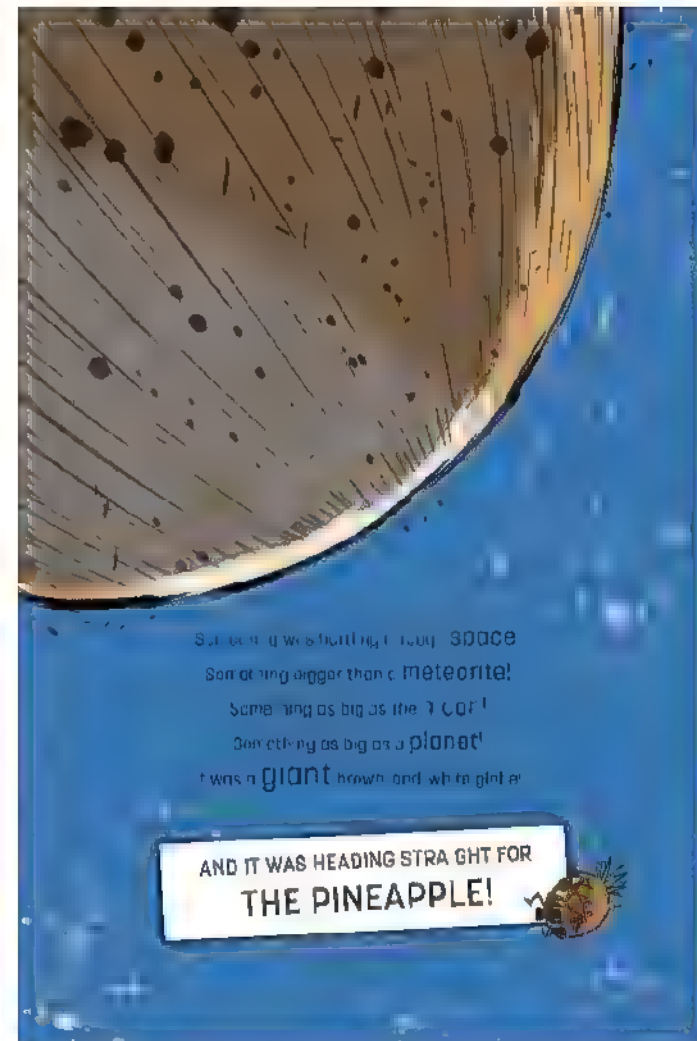
That **wobble** became a **shake**



And then the pineapple began to **crumble!**

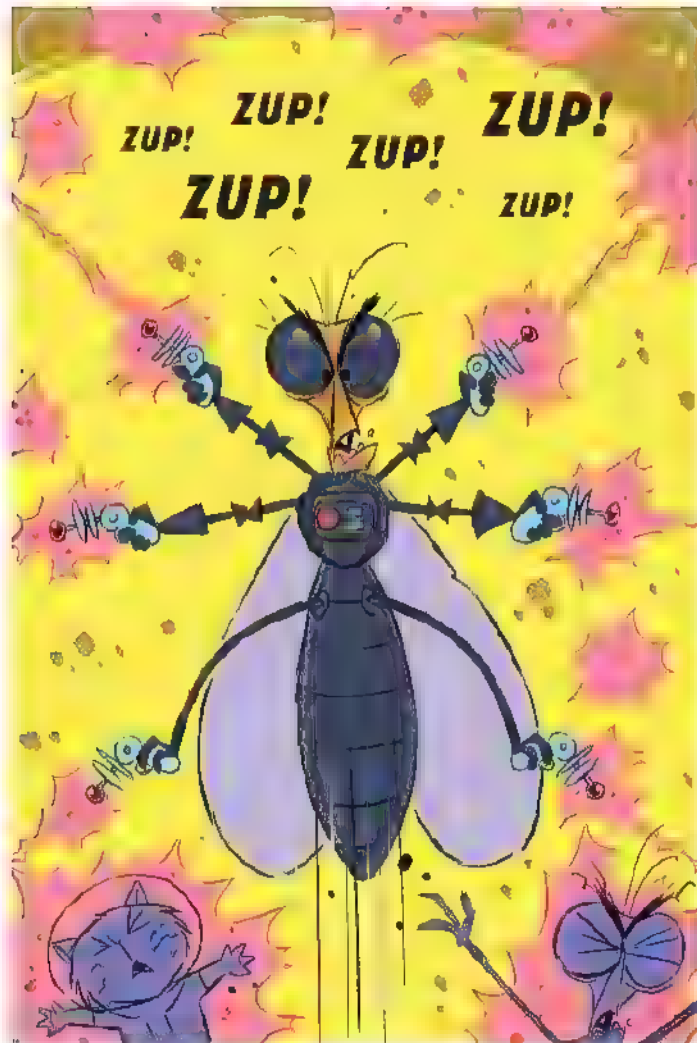


The fighting stopped. Everyone fell silent.  
They looked out of the porthole.

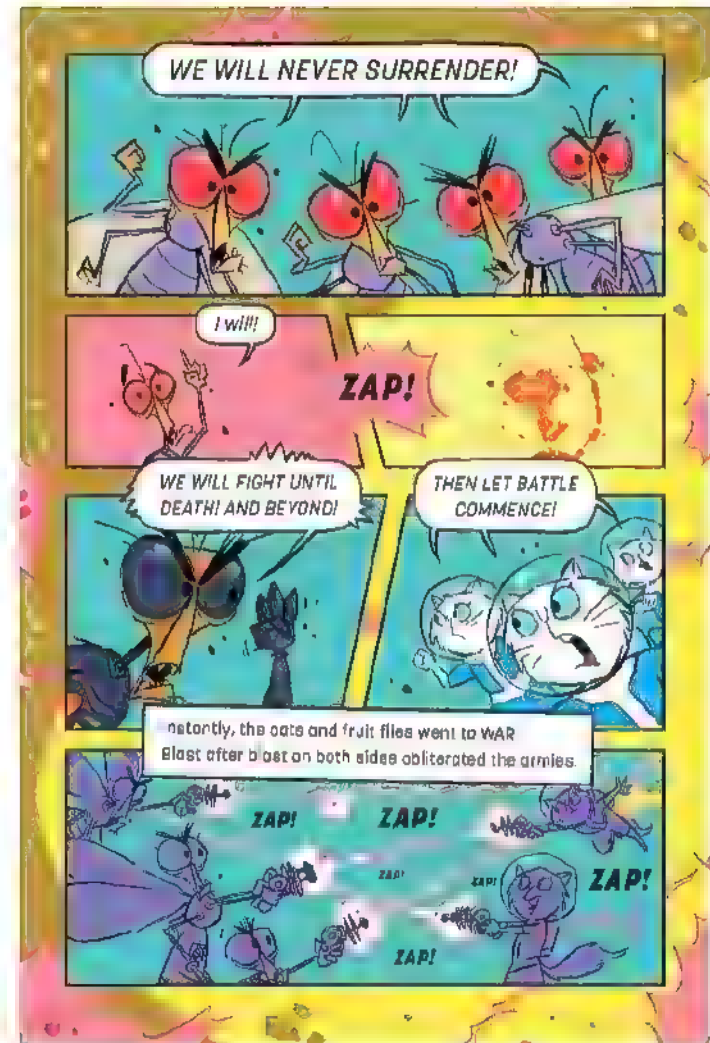


Something was hurtling through space  
Something bigger than a meteorite!  
Something as big as the 747!  
Something as big as a planet!  
It was a giant brown and white glider

AND IT WAS HEADING STRAIGHT FOR  
THE PINEAPPLE!







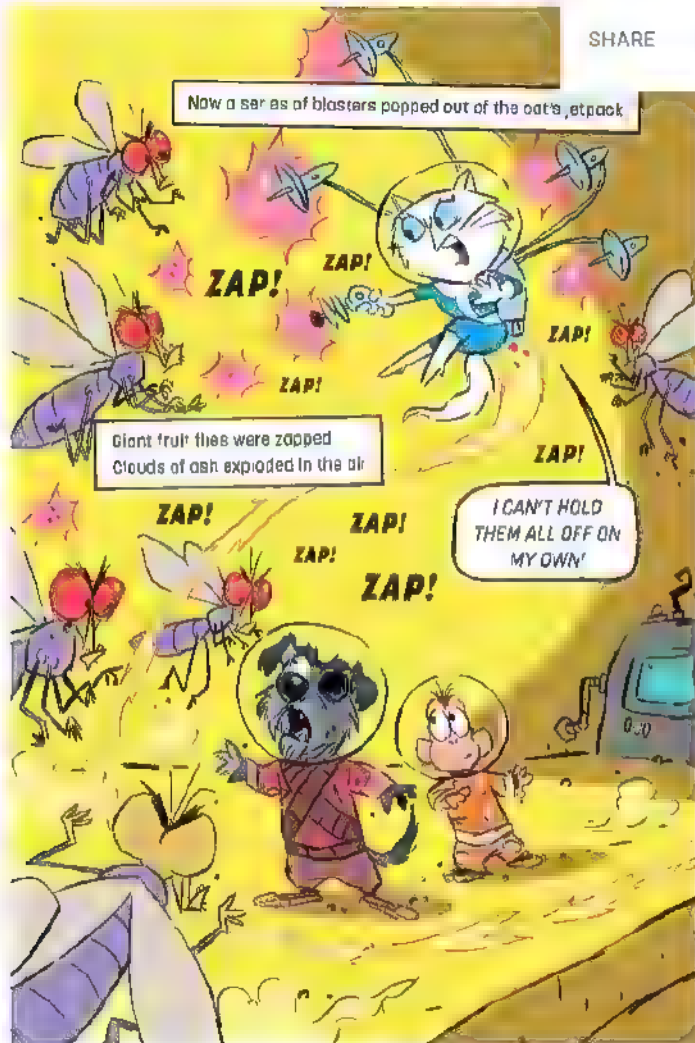
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Clump couldn't bear it  
He covered his eyes  
with his hands.

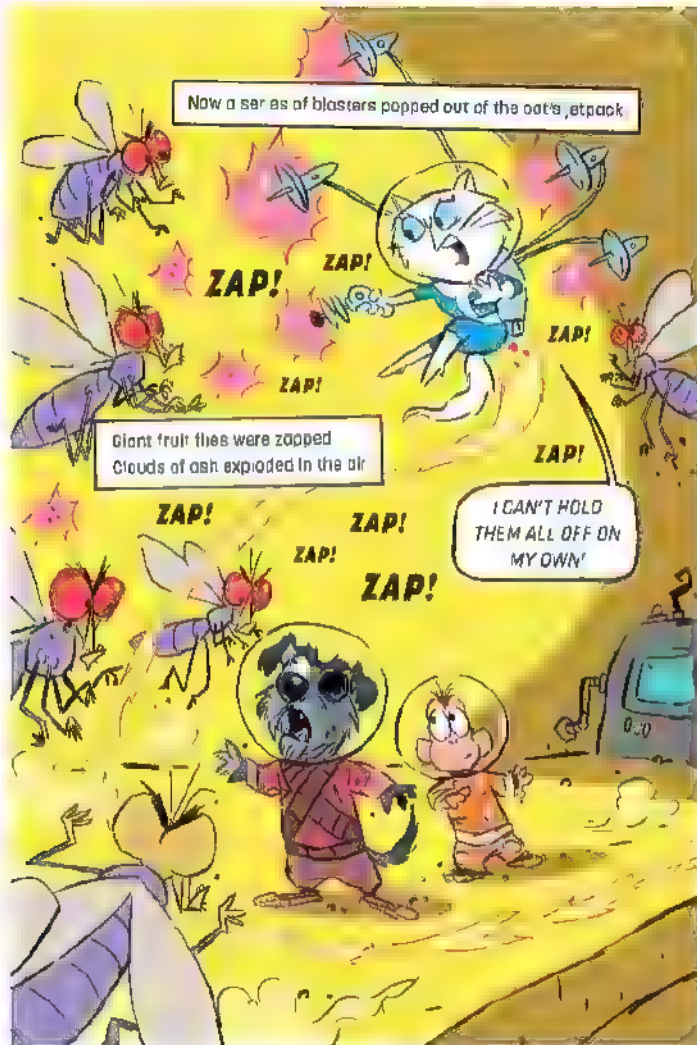
The 1 he covered his  
ears with his feet



Bardot spoke into the microphone  
in her helmet

**ZAP!**

**ZAP!**

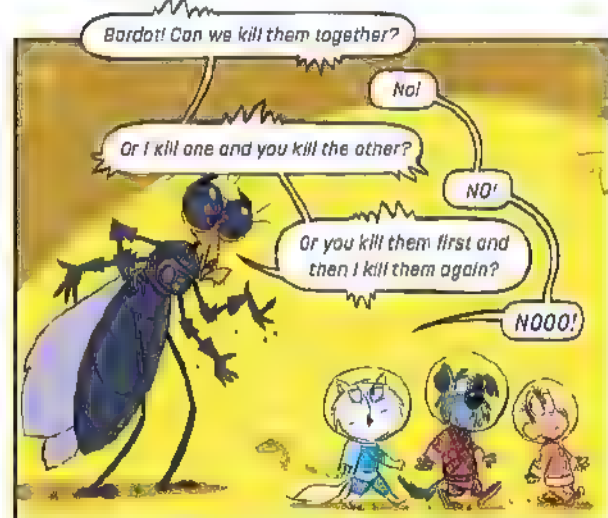






"Prisoners! Follow me!"

With that, Bardot marched Dimitri and Chump in the direction of the hatch.

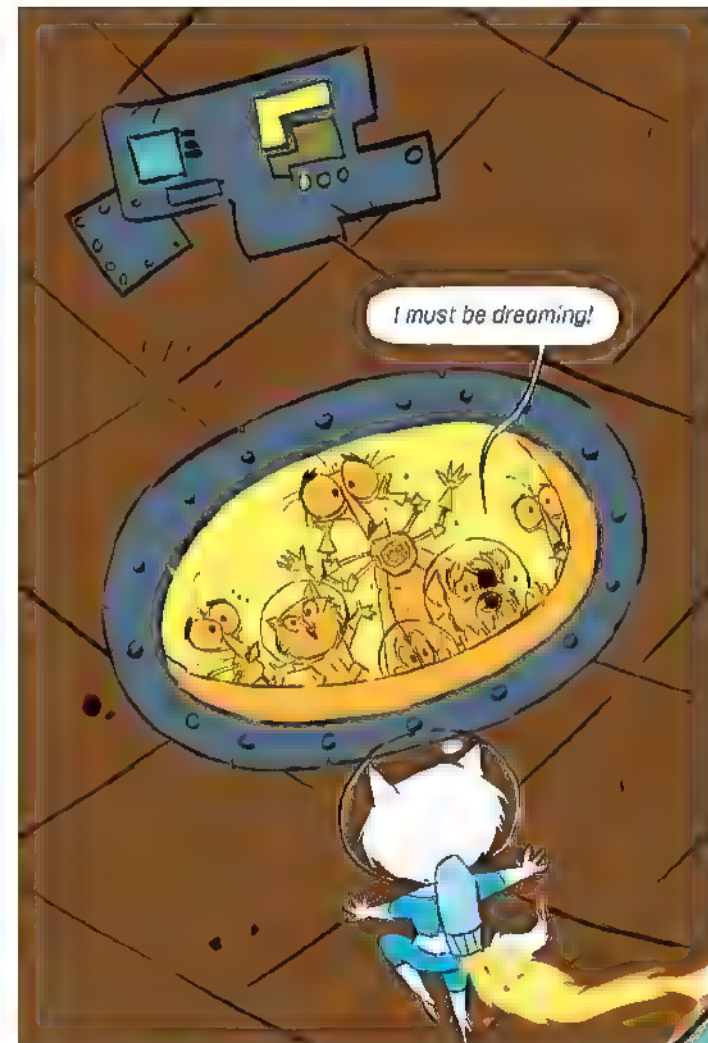


123







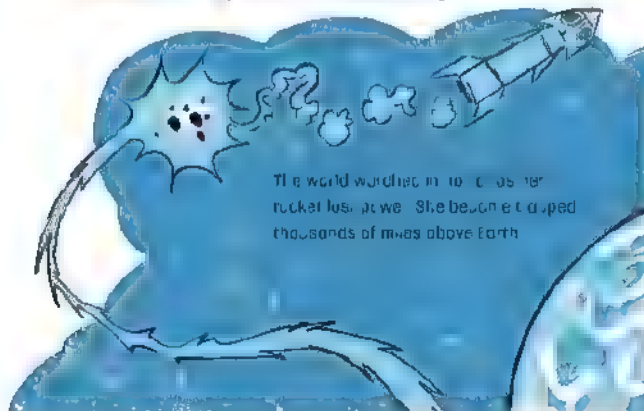




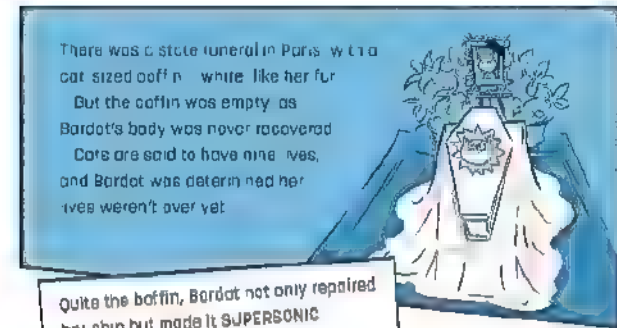


There was a cat with a jetpack strapped to her back!

The French space agency had selected this super-smart sassy cat to be their first animal in space. The cat became an instant star, **THE WORLD'S FIRST CATSTRONAUT!** But Bardot's space flight went dramatically wrong.



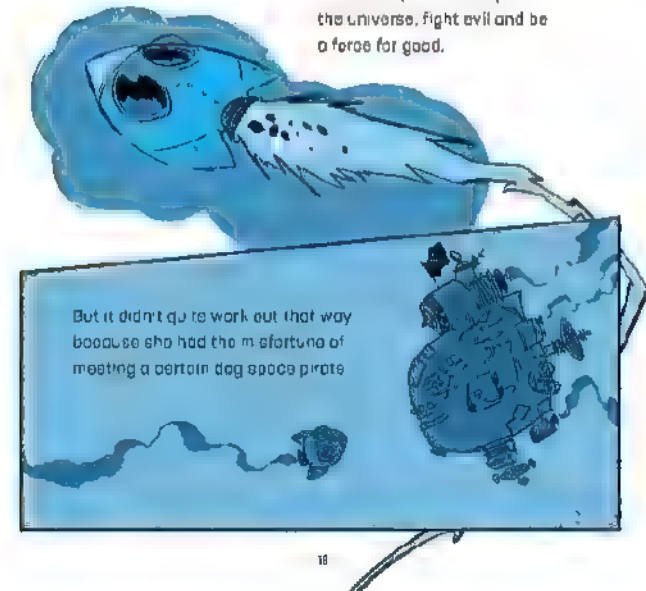
The world watched in terror as her rocket exploded. She became trapped thousands of miles above Earth.



There was a state funeral in Paris with a cat-sized coffin white like her fur. But the coffin was empty as Bardot's body was never recovered. Cats are said to have nine lives, and Bardot was determined her lives weren't over yet.

Quite the boffin, Bardot not only repaired her ship but made it **SUPERSONIC**. The fastest spaceship ever!

Bardot's plan was to police the universe, fight evil and be a force for good.



But it didn't quite work out that way because she had the misfortune of meeting a certain dog space pirate.



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They closed their eyes. The

**ZAP!**

It was the laser blaster itself that was zapped  
"ARGH!" cried the queen as the blaster dropped  
out of her front legs



All eyes turned towards the hatch.



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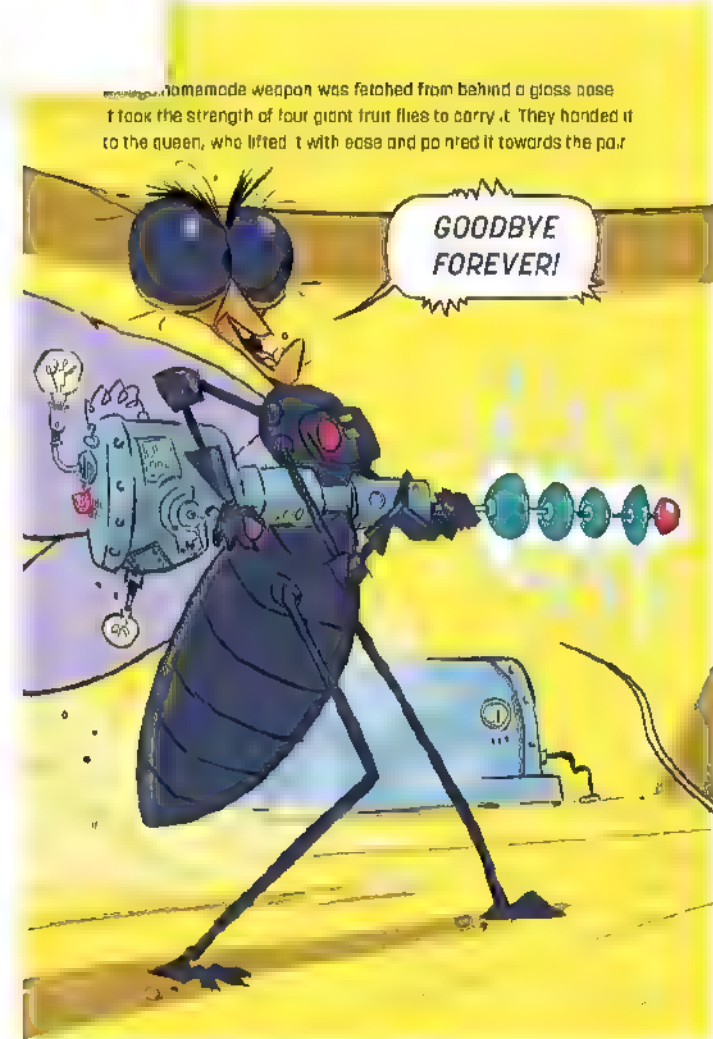
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111





"HOW DARE YOU!" thundered the queen

"Dops!" said Chump

"Yow chump!" barked Dmitri.

" know "

We will savour every moment of killing you!  
We love killing! Fruit mainly, but we are branching  
out Chimps. Dogs. Whatever! And when we have  
killed you two until you are dead, we will wreak  
our revenge on the entire human race!

Why?

The queen looked around at her swarm.

We fruit flies made  
history as the first living  
creatures in space!

Oh, here we go  
again.

9

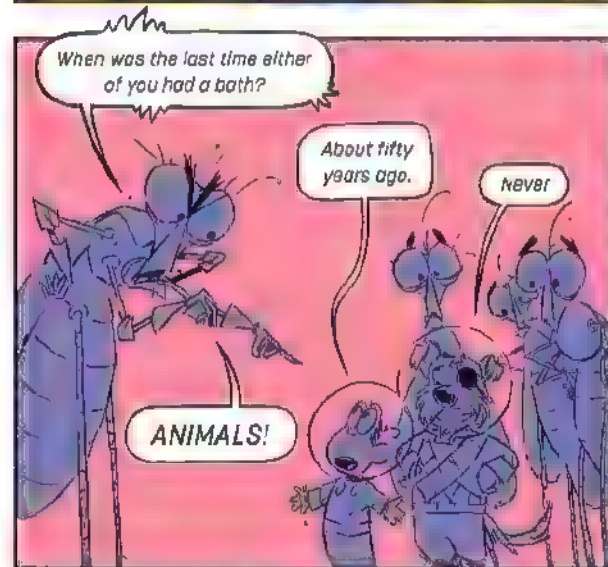
In 1947, we were blasted thousands of miles  
above Earth. An experiment. To see if creatures  
from Earth could survive up here. We did. But  
what we didn't know was that the humans  
would leave us up here... TO DIE.

Join the club!

So, after we destroy you,  
we will destroy Earth!

How?

10

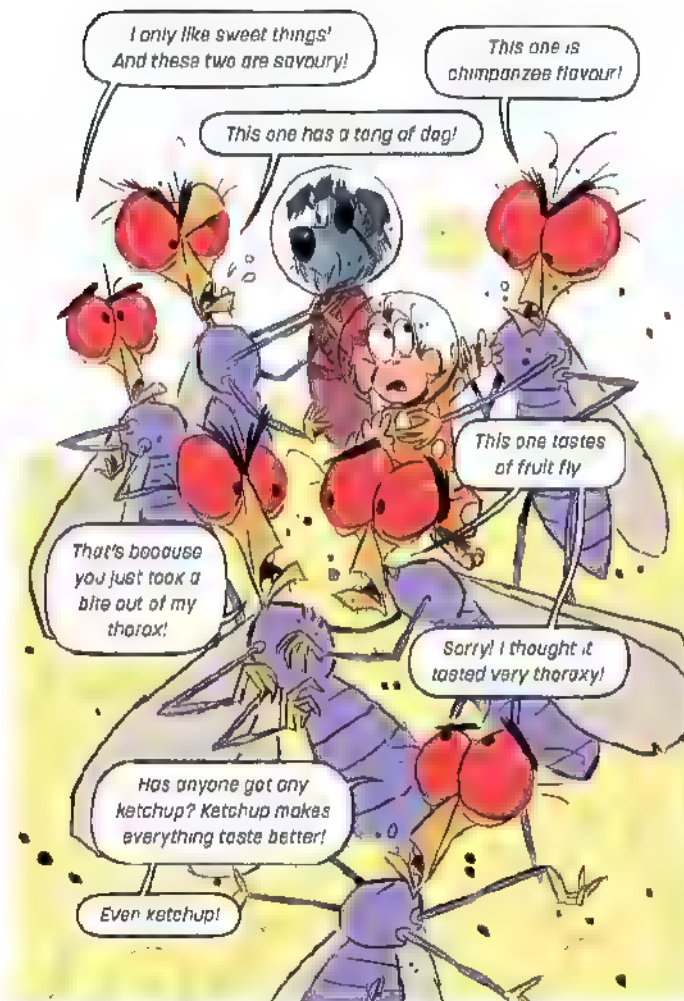
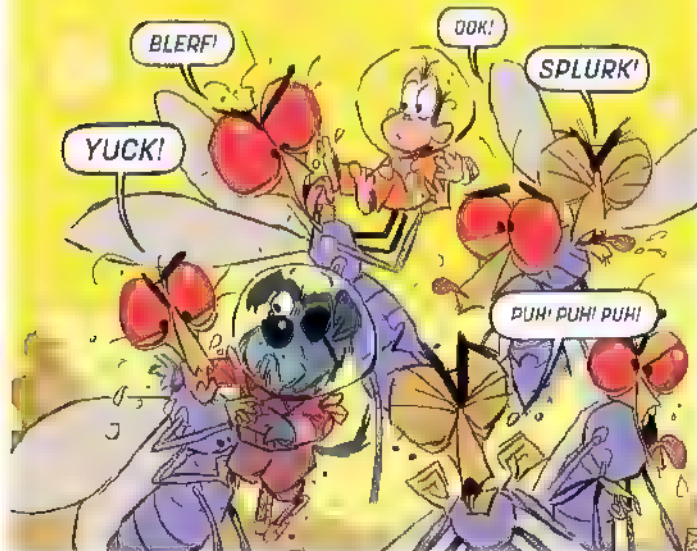


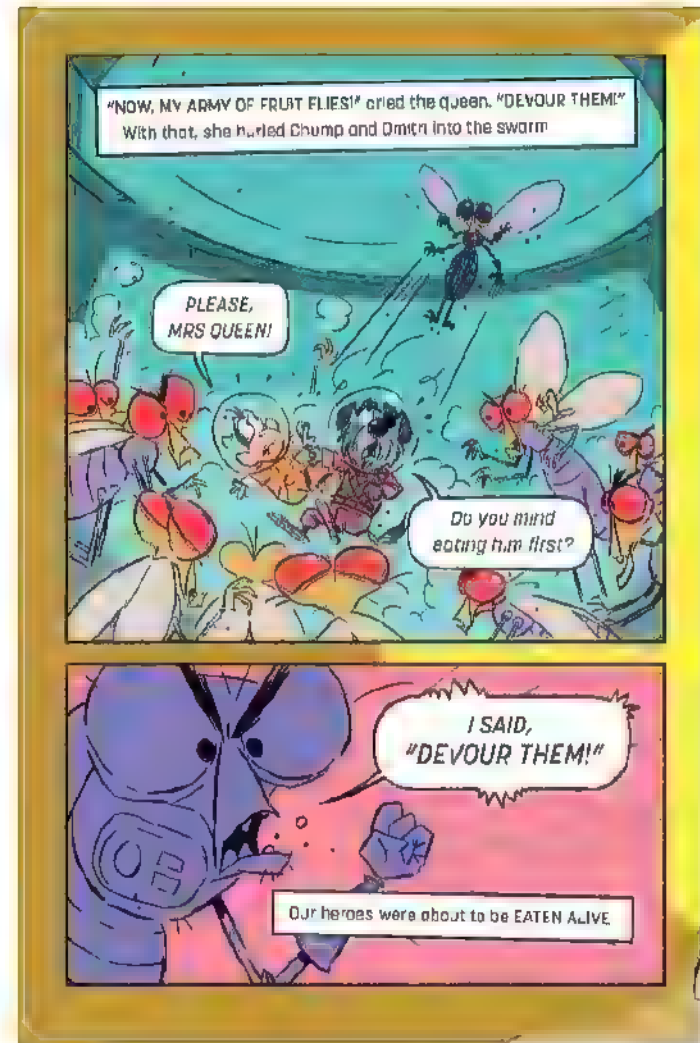
## EPISODE SIX

"EJRGH!" exclaimed one of the fruit flies

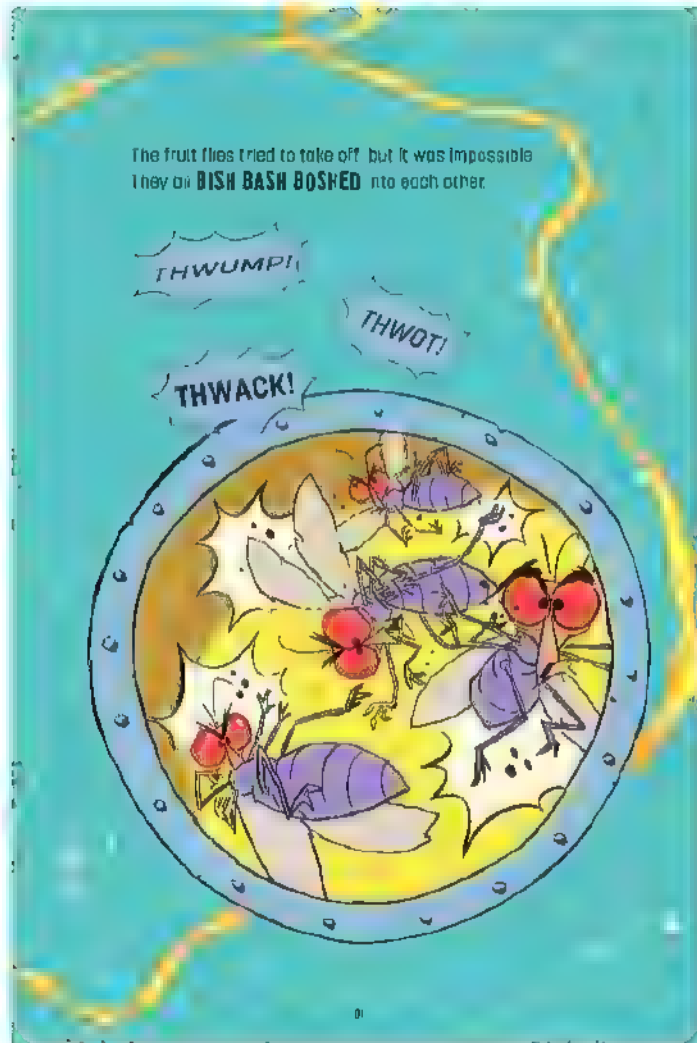
**"THEY TASTE REVOLTING!"**

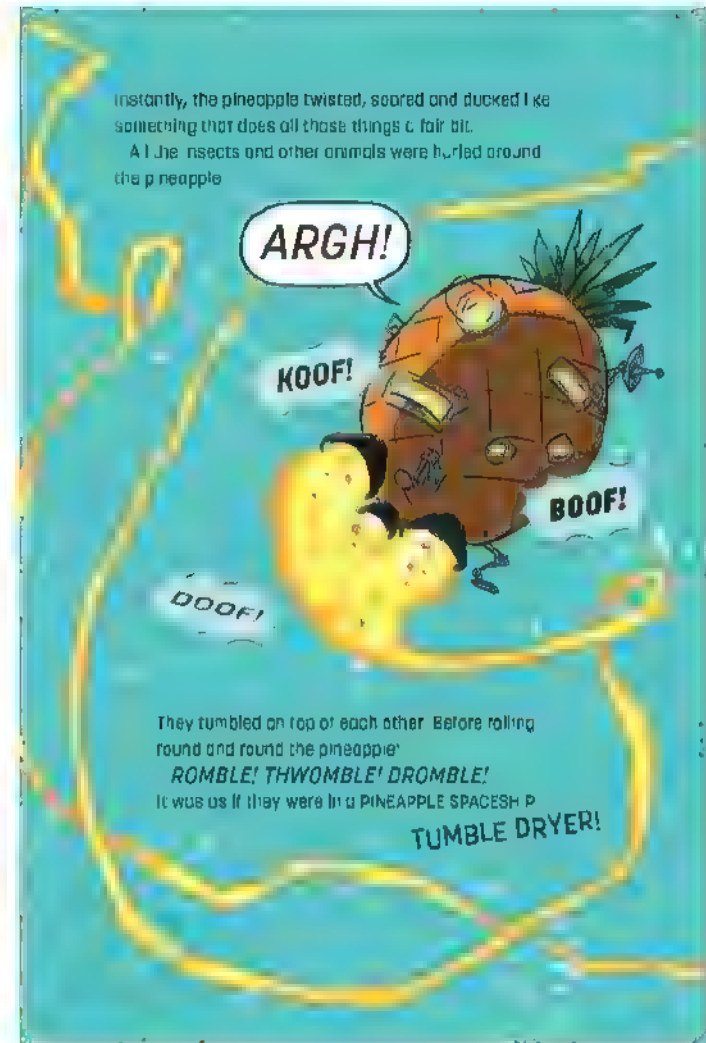
Just the tiniest nibble of the dog or the chimp  
was enough to make them all want to BARF!











Chump, being Chump, dashed the **WRONG** way...  
right towards the giant fruit flies!

"**WRONG WAY!**" cried Dmitri.

But it was too late. Chump was among them! He tripped  
over one of the Queen Fruit Fly's feet and hit the deck!



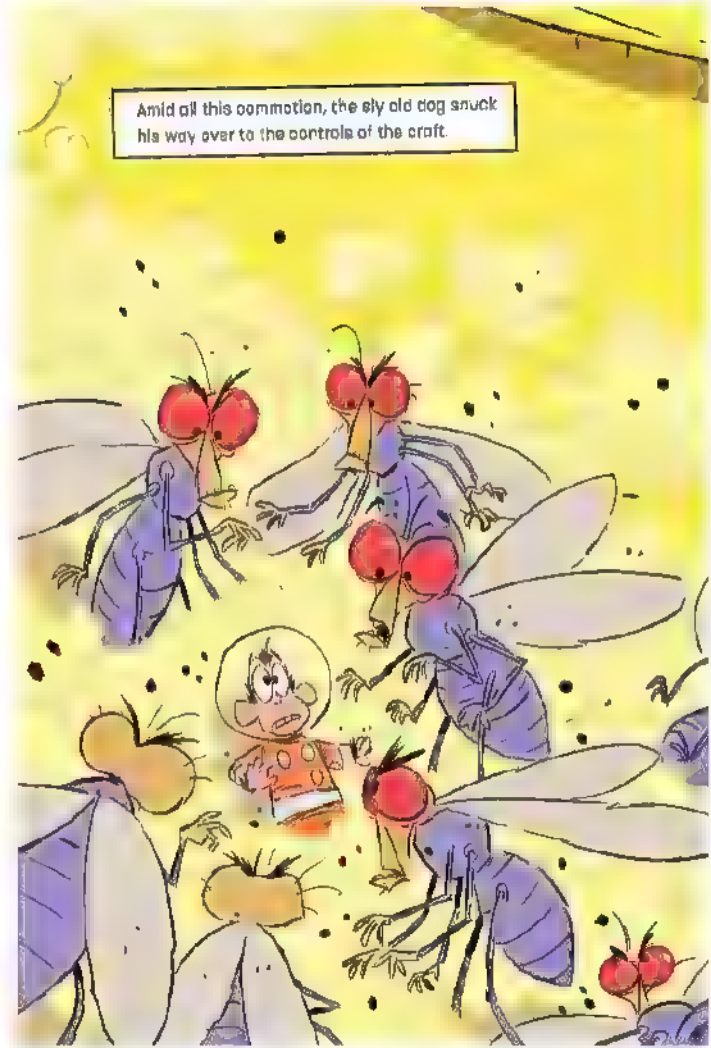
Chump flew across the floor

**SWOOFF!**

... knocking down fruit fly after fruit fly as he did

**BOSH! BOSH! BOSH!**

Amid all this commotion, the sly old dog snuck  
his way over to the controls of the craft.



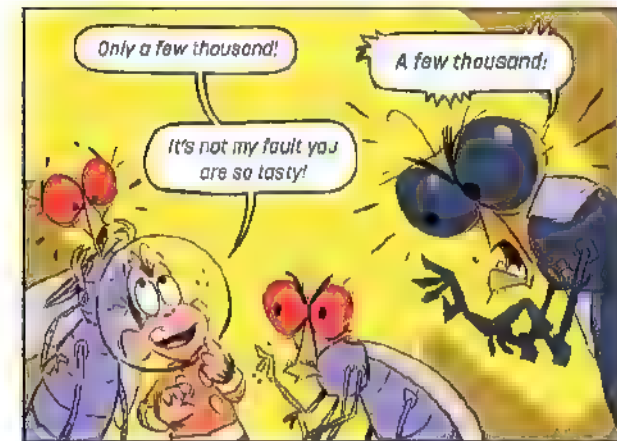






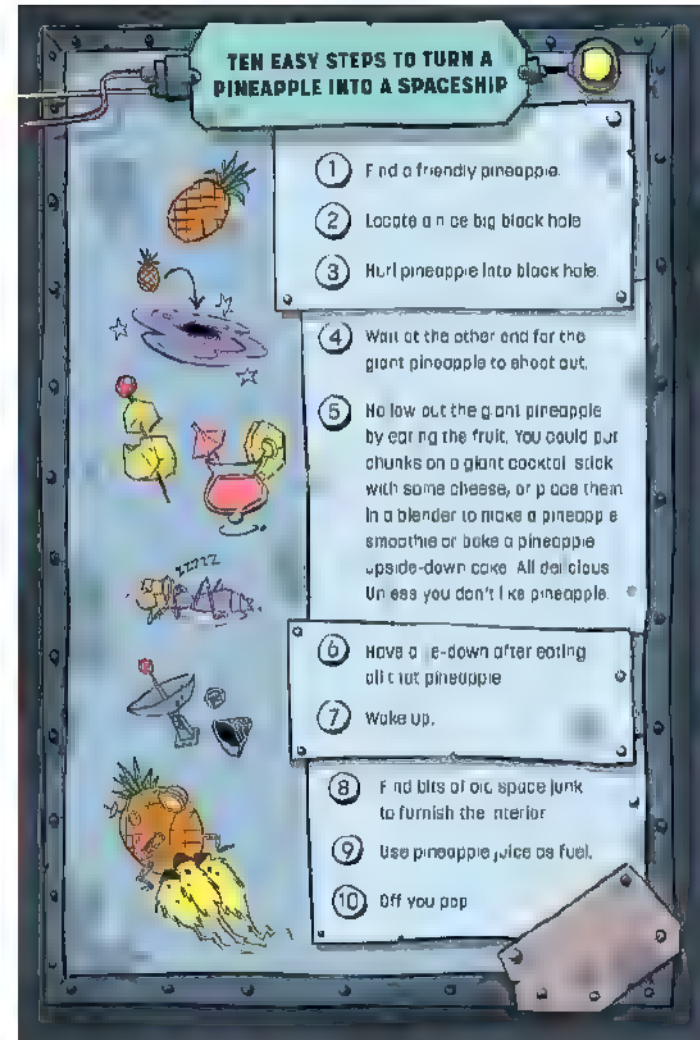


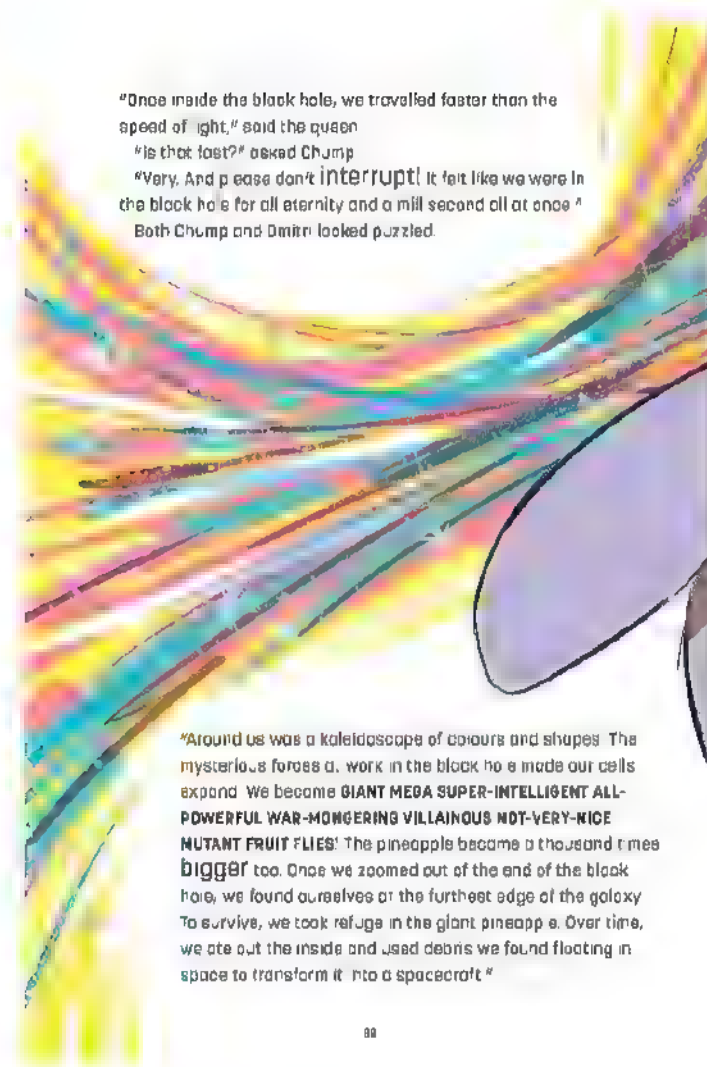
91



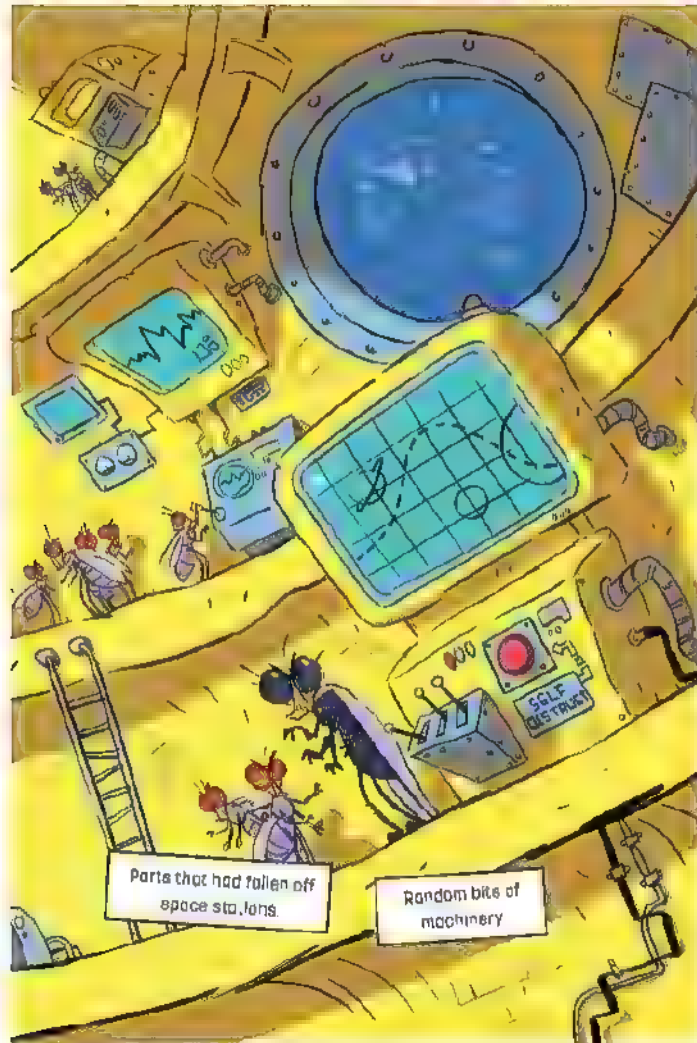
92





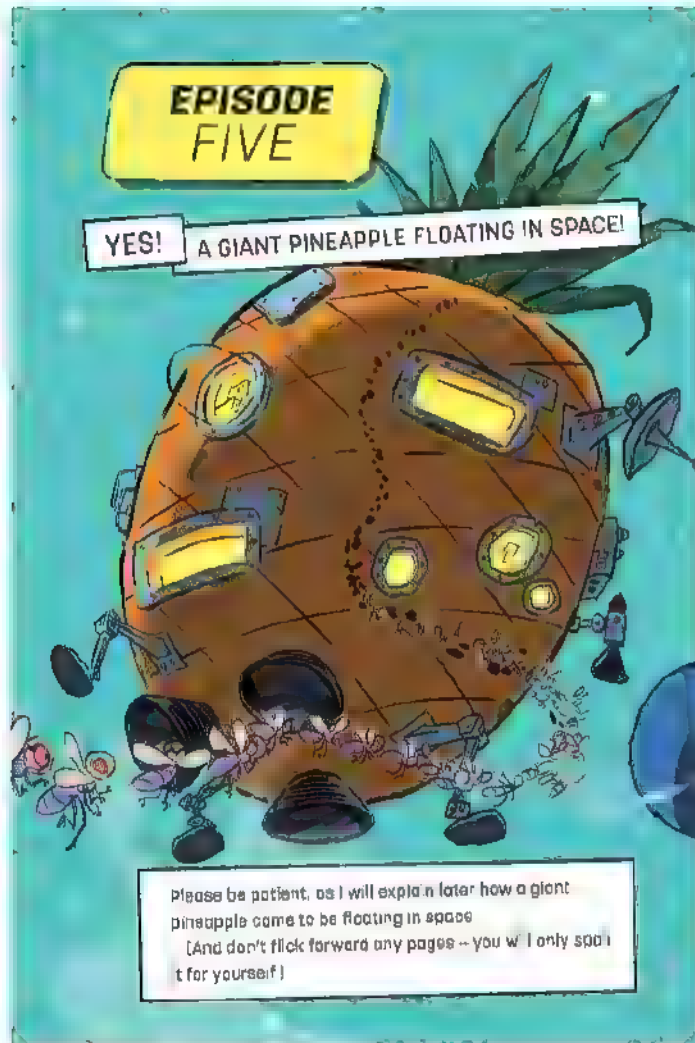






The swarm parted as an even taller fruit fly with bulging back eyes flew to the front. It was apparent this one was their leader. The one who must be obeyed! She hissed at them.





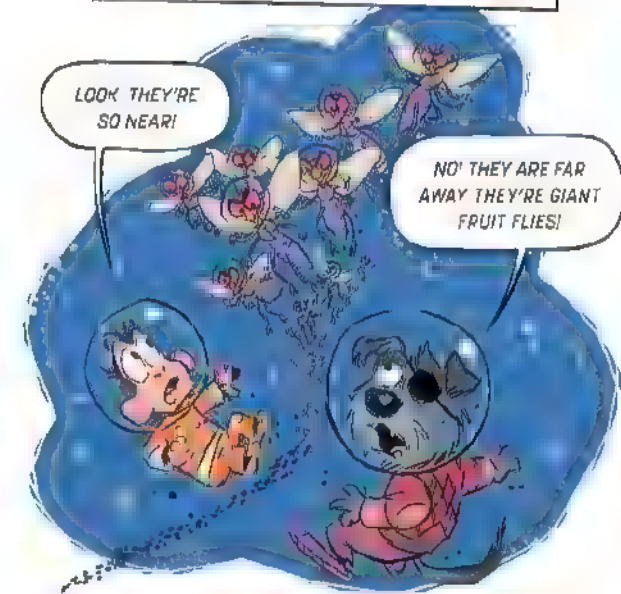


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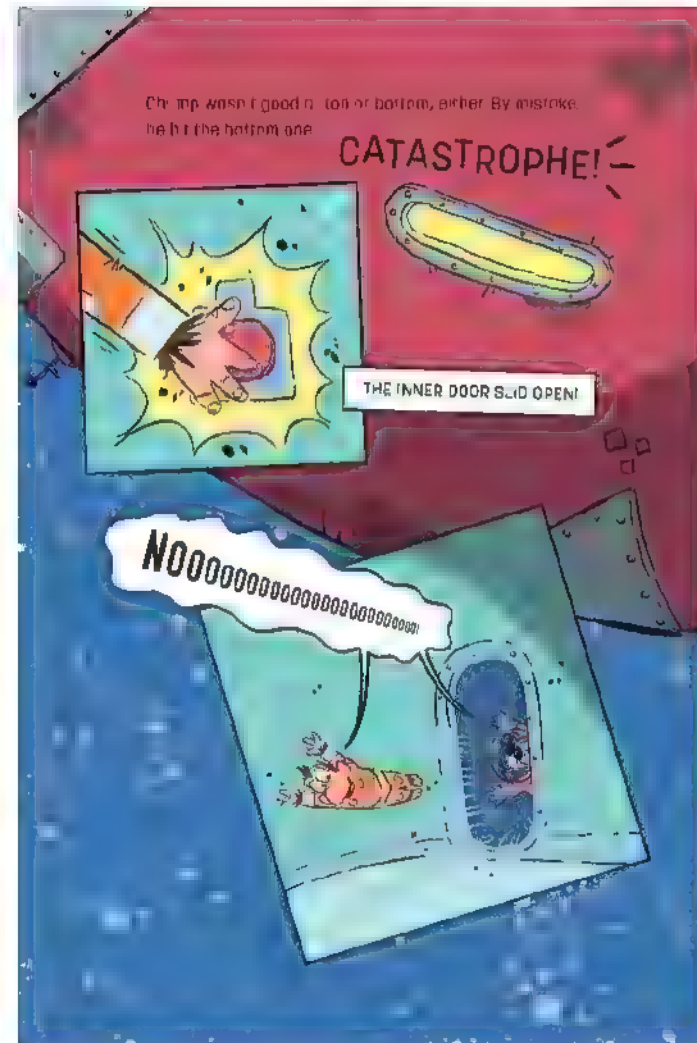
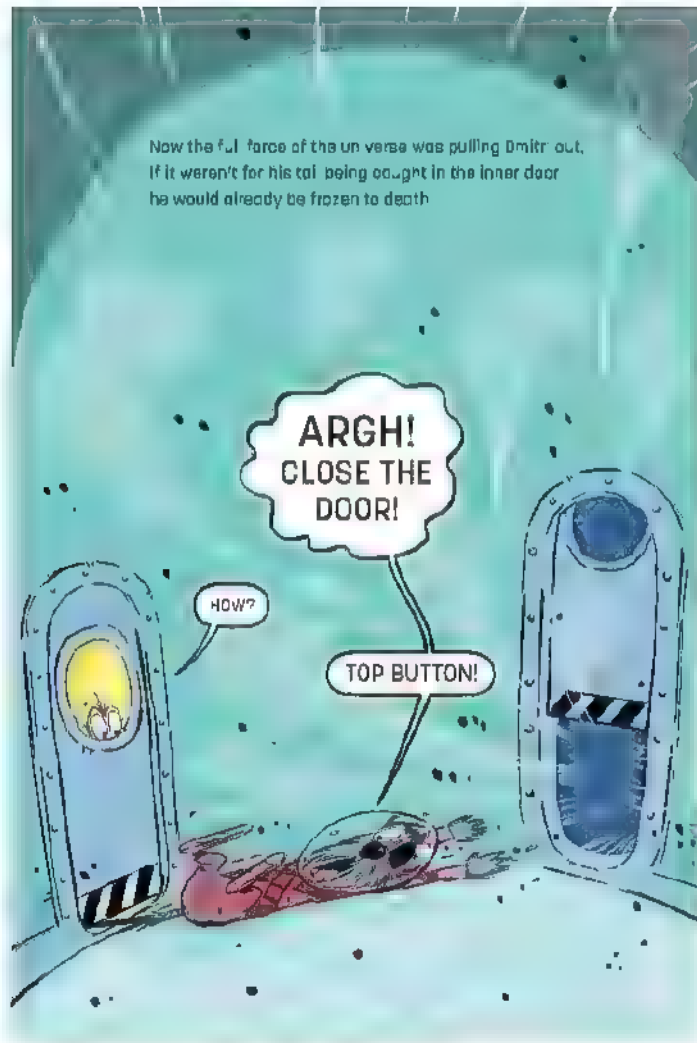


The pair turned round to see A SWARM OF FRUIT FLIES Buzzing towards them!





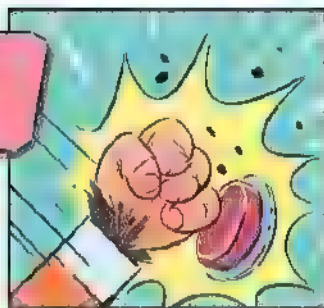




## EPISODE FOUR

A terrified Chump hit a button, and the inner door began to close.

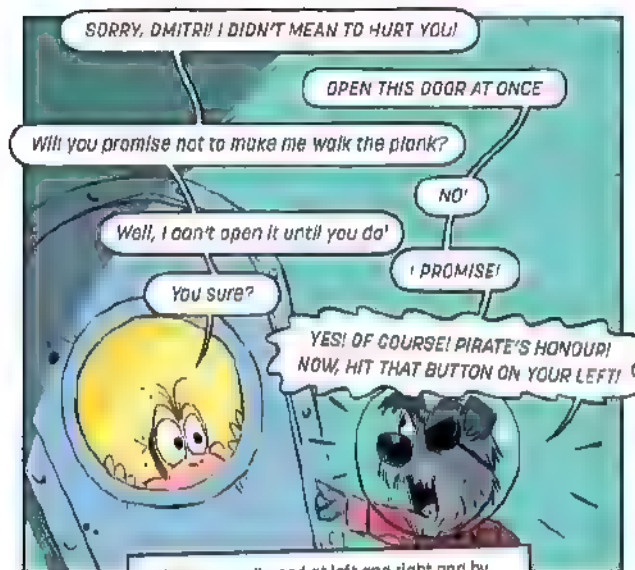
SCHTU...!



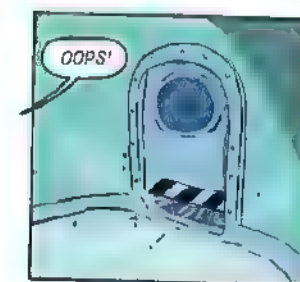
But, before it shut completely, Dmitri smacked against it!



73



Chump wasn't good at left and right and by mistake pressed the button on his right. This opened the outer door.

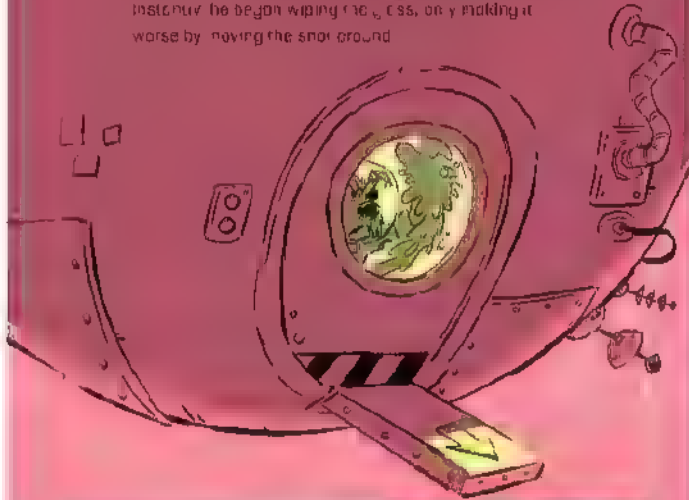


74

"HU!" yelled Dmitri, whipping out a dirty handkerchief and pushing it into the chimp's nose.

"AT SHOO!" sneezed Chump, catching a huge globule of chimp snot on the hanky.

"LET ME DO IT!" ordered Dmitri, sniffing and sniffing. Back to back, he began wiping the glass, only making it worse by moving the snot around.

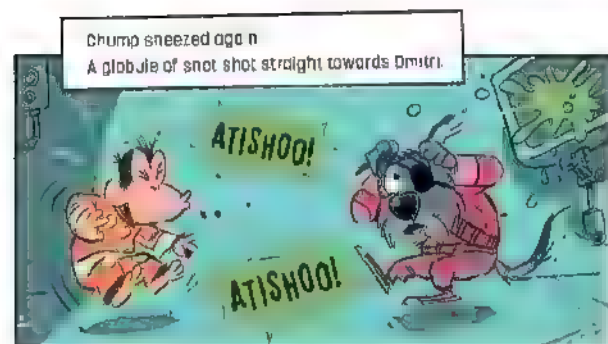


Chump began tiptoeing backwards until he was behind the inner door.









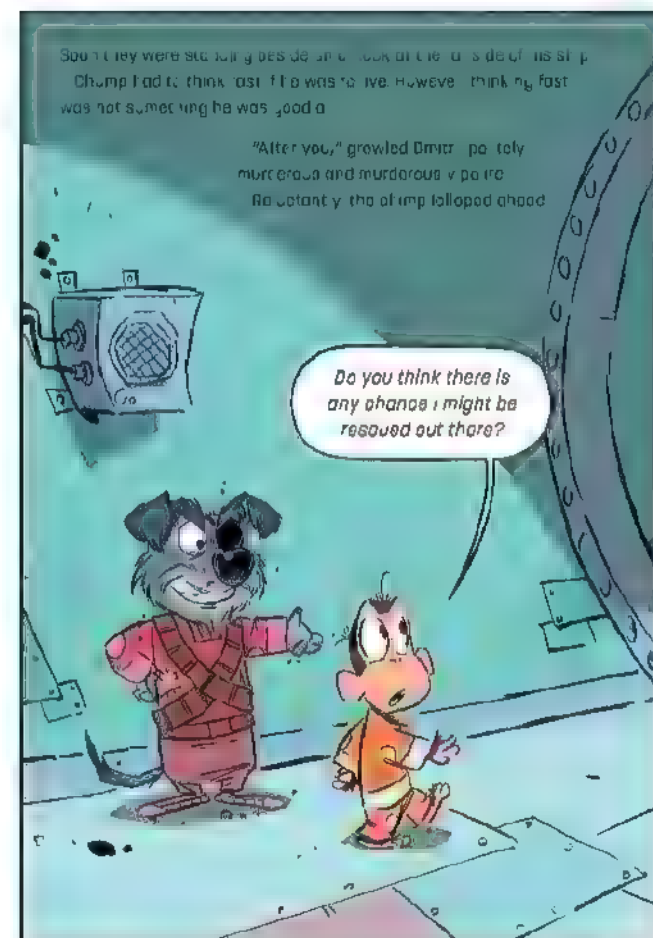
Dmitri ducked and the snot splattered all over a screen behind him.

**SPLUT!**

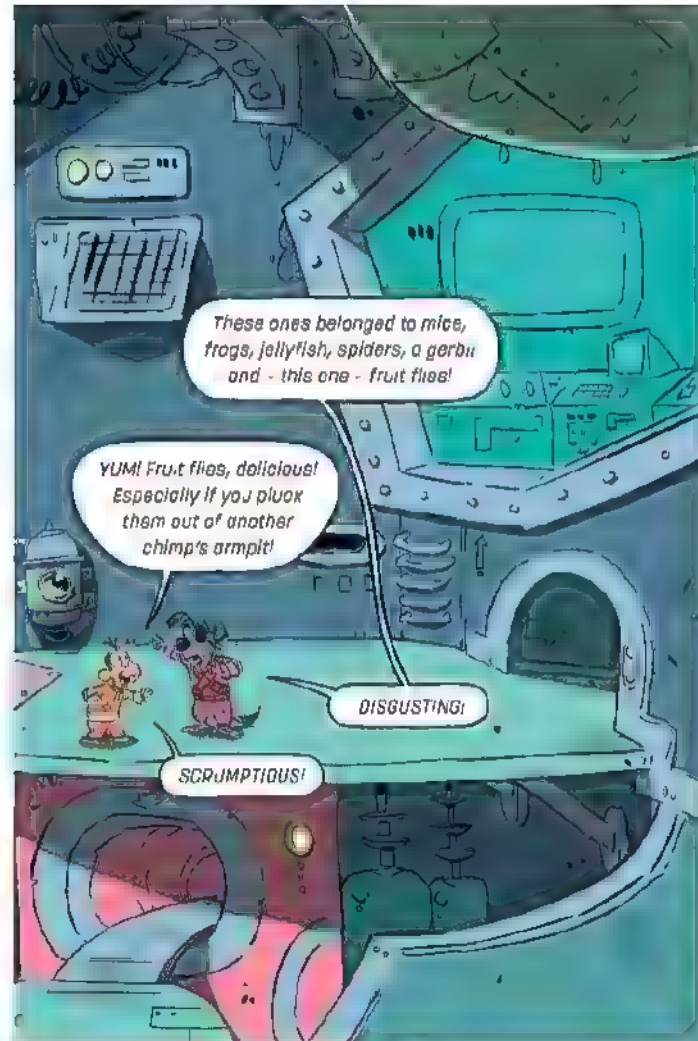
"OOPS!" said Chump.  
Dmitri looked at the snot with disgust. "Revolt! Now,  
where were we?"  
"You were about to make me walk the plank!" replied Chump,  
before slapping his hairy forehead in frustration.



67



68









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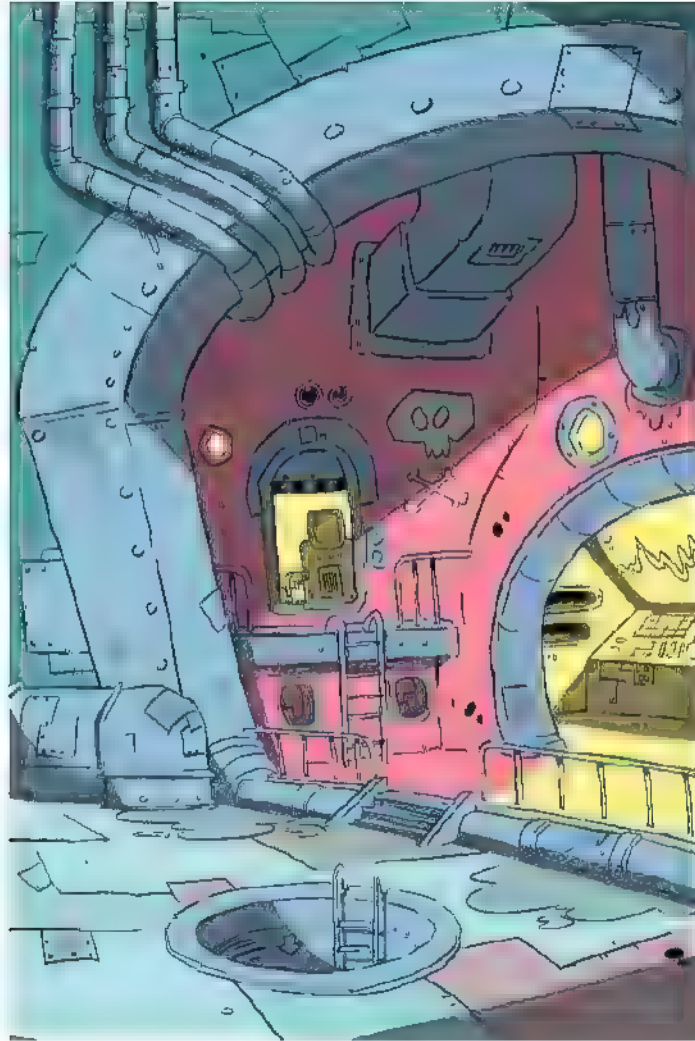
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59



60









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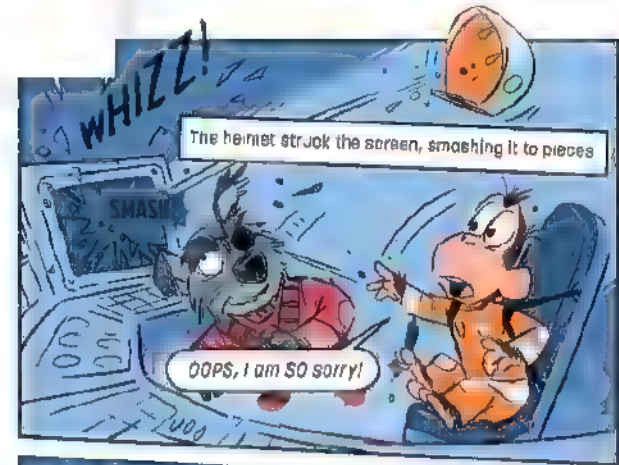
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The chimp took off his still-spot-spattered helmet.



51



52



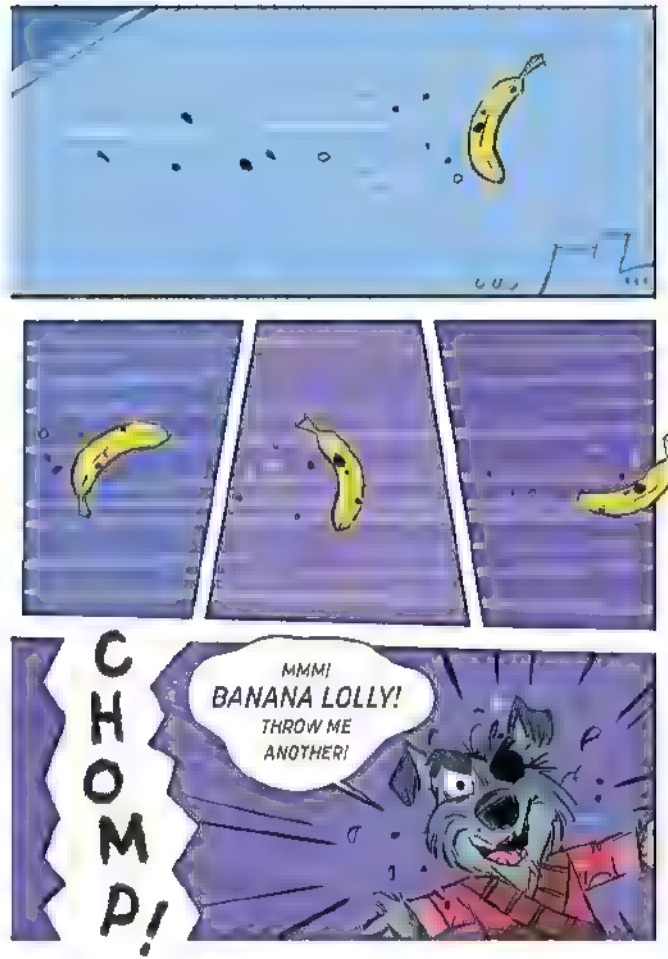




47

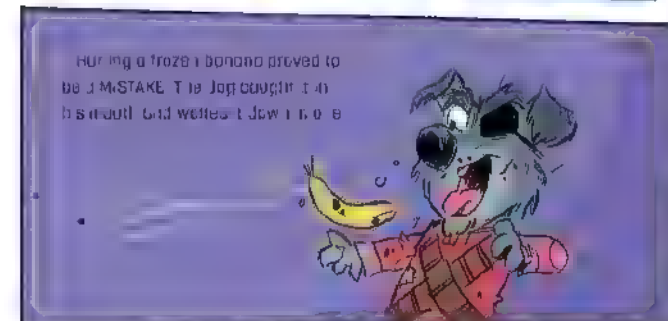
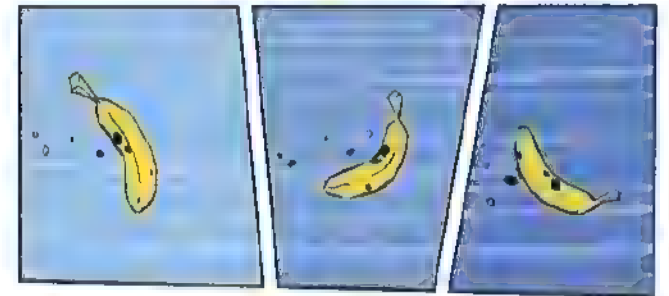


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43



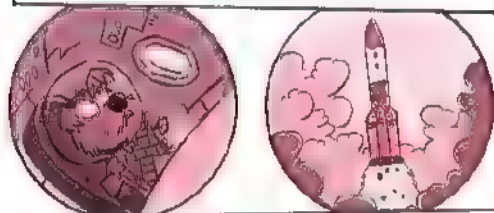
44

Dmitri was a stray who had been found living rough on the mean backstreets of Moscow. Years before Chump's mission, he was selected to make history as the first animal in space.

The Russian space programme chose a stray dog, as it would be more able to endure the cold and hunger up in space.



Dmitri was strapped into his spacecraft and blasted up into space. His mission was a success: he survived!



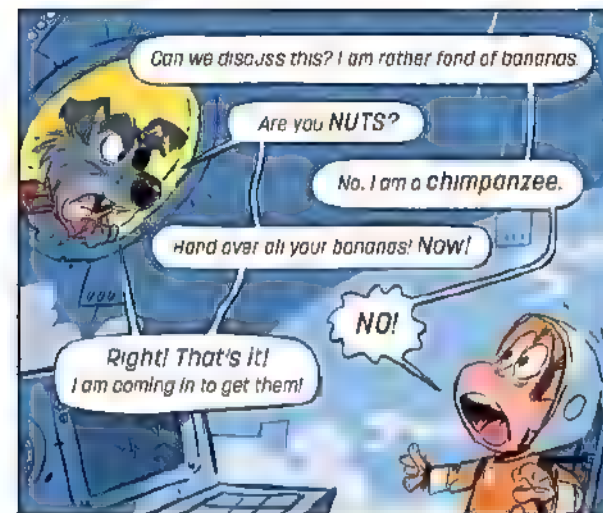
But little did HE know that there was no plan to bring him back to Earth. He was left alone in his craft, floating across the universe. He had **ZERO CHANCE OF SURVIVAL.**



But the dog was dogged. Dmitri was determined to survive by becoming the first **DOG SPACE PIRATE!** That's why he was demanding Chump's bananas!



41

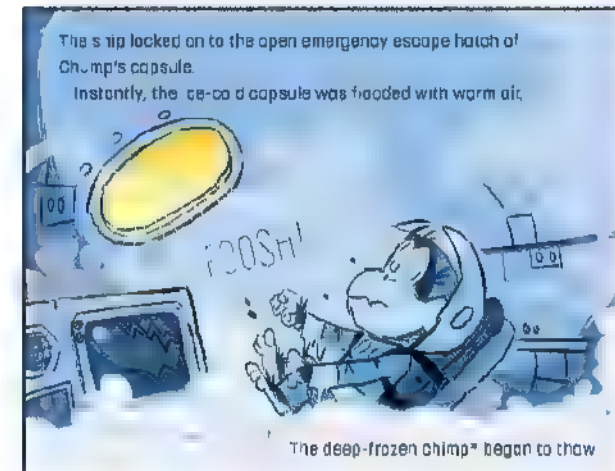


Well that, he slid down into the capsule.



42





Now Chump's ice-encrusted eyes opened for the first time in half a century!

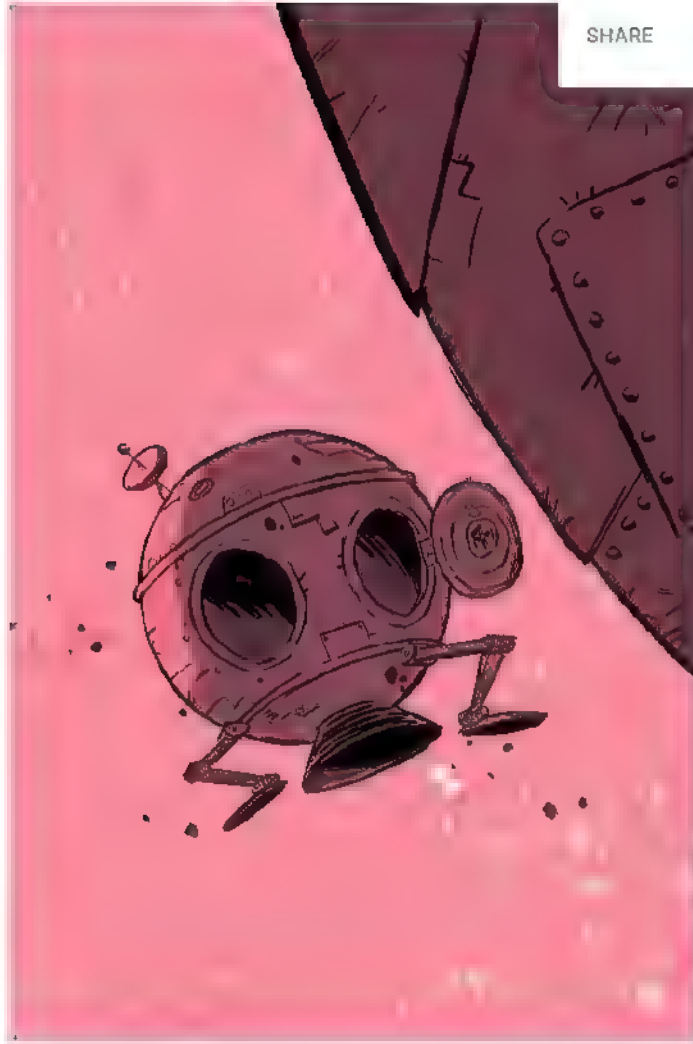


An upside-down dog's head sporting an eyepatch poked through the hatch. The dog barked in a Russian accent.



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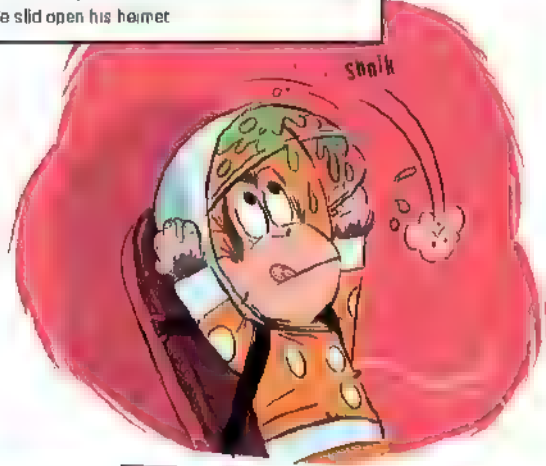


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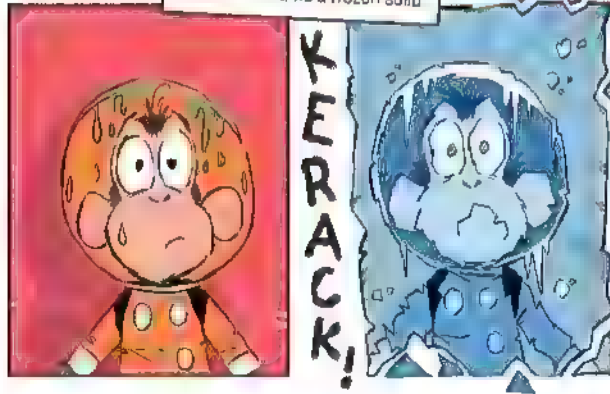
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Then Chump made a **TERRIBLE MISTAKE!**  
He slid open his helmet

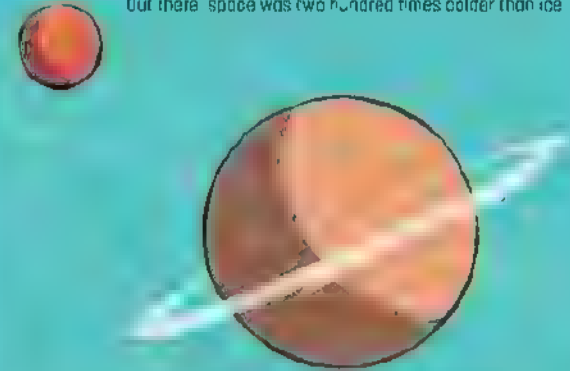


In an instant, he'd frozen solid



The capsule spun through the solar system  
past Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and Uranus.  
before nearly colliding with Neptune.

Out there, space was two hundred times colder than ice



The chimpanzee was frozen completely solid

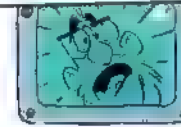
Like an ape lolly







"CHUMP? CHUMP!" cried the chief scientist.  
Chump's screen froze over and cracked.



It fizzed to black

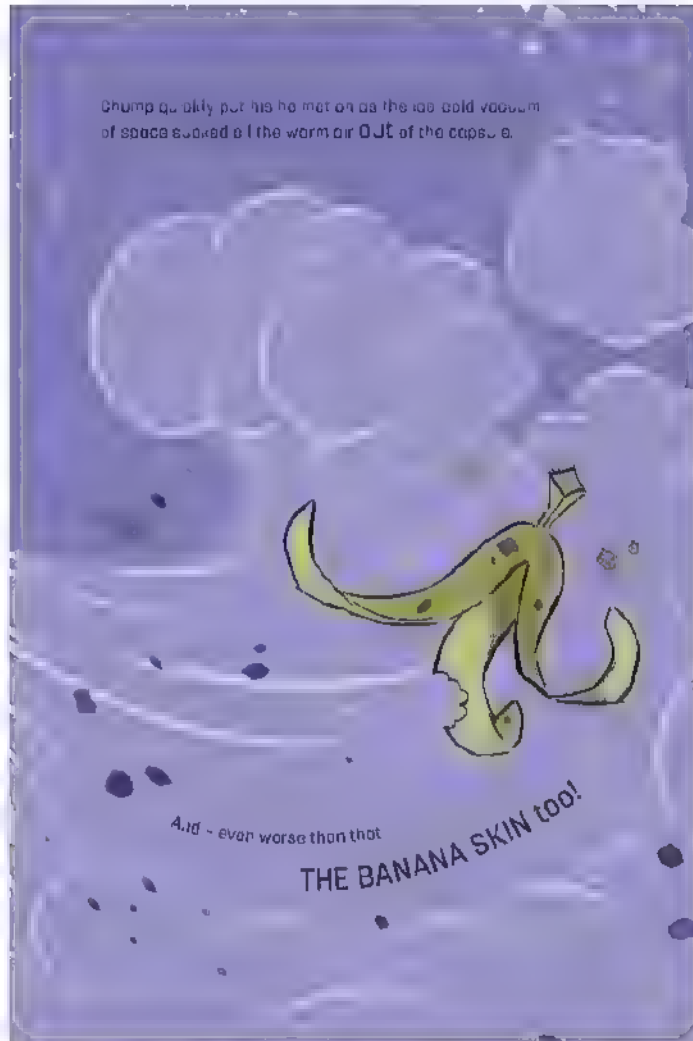


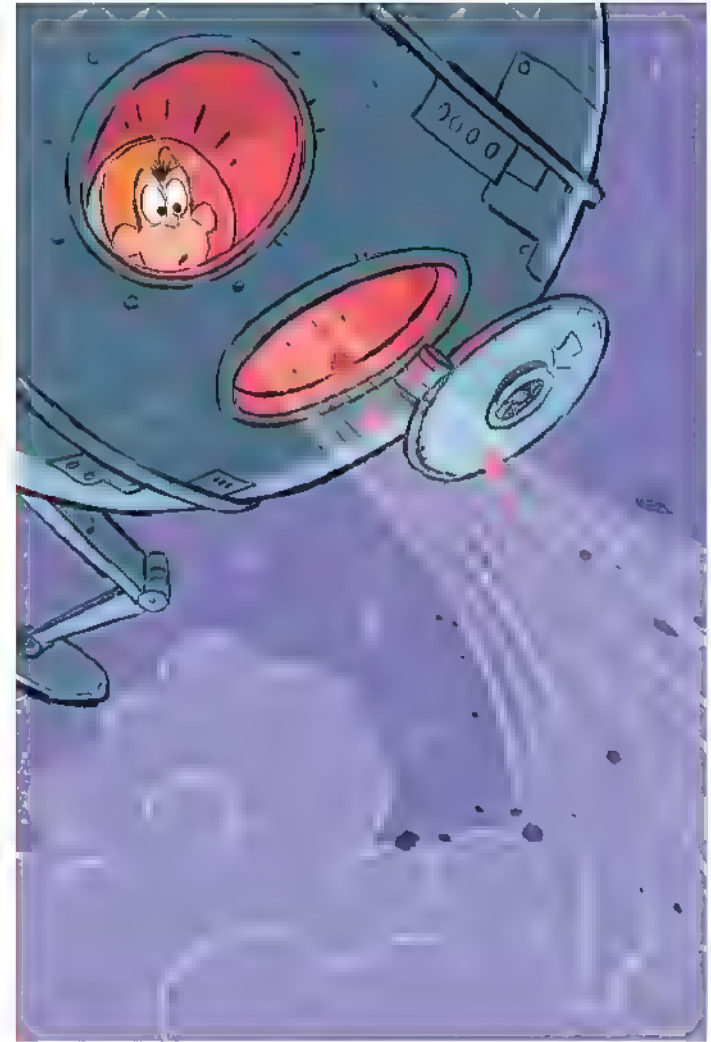
As he began to feel the cold, Chump sneezed



Snat spotted the inside of his helmet.  
The chimp tried to wipe the snat off from the outside.

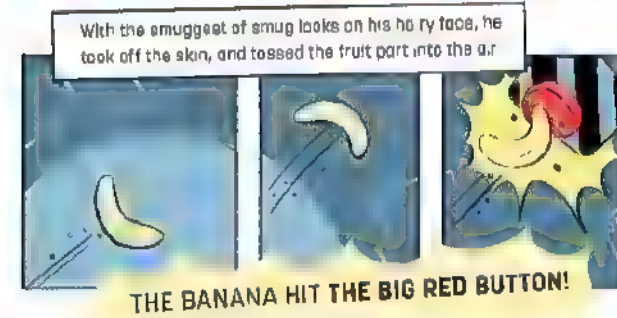








25



26



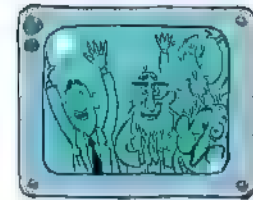
## HISTORY WAS BEING MADE!

The continents, the oceans and the polar icecaps drifted by thousands of miles below.

Once he had spotted North America coming round again, Chump realised he had successfully orbited Earth.



On Chump's screen, all the NASA scientists down at Kennedy Space Center clapped and cheered.



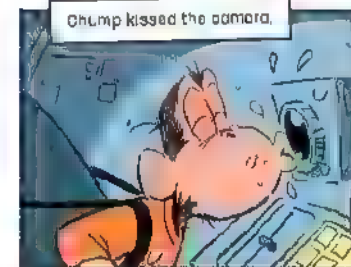
}"HOORAY!"

Chump cheered himself.

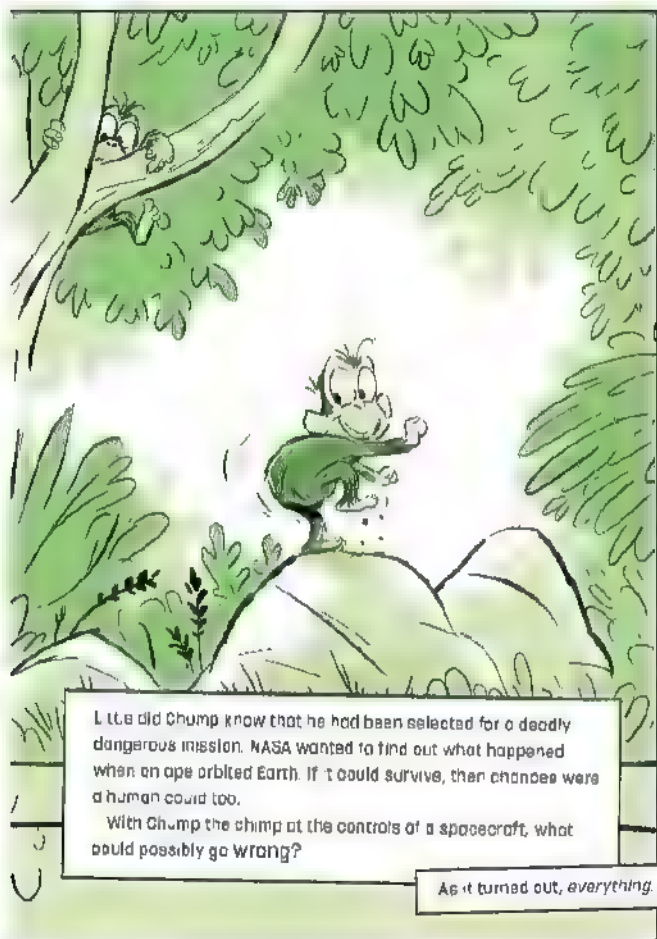
HOORAY  
FOR ME!

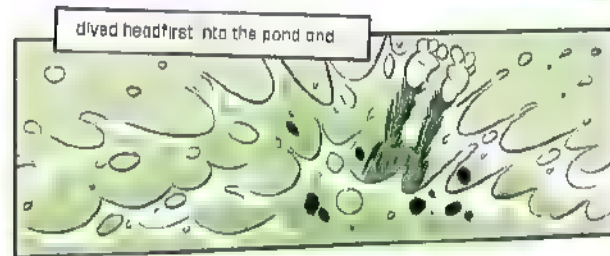
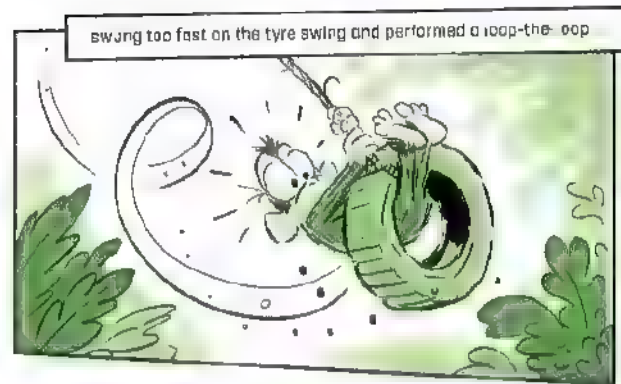
"Chump!" cried the chief scientist. "The mission is a success! Now sit tight as we bring you safely back to Earth."

Chump kissed the camera.



leaving it drenched in dribble.

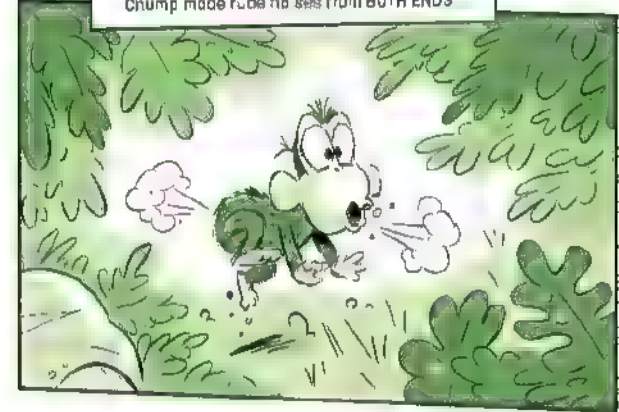




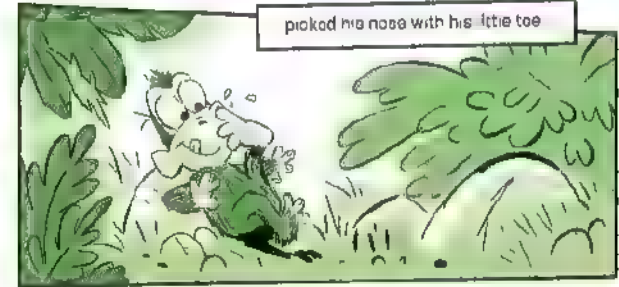


Somewhere, thousands of miles below, was Chump's home, Central Park Zoo. He had arrived there as an orphan. The baby didn't have a name, so the other chimps named him Chump. That's because he was always amusing everyone by being silly.

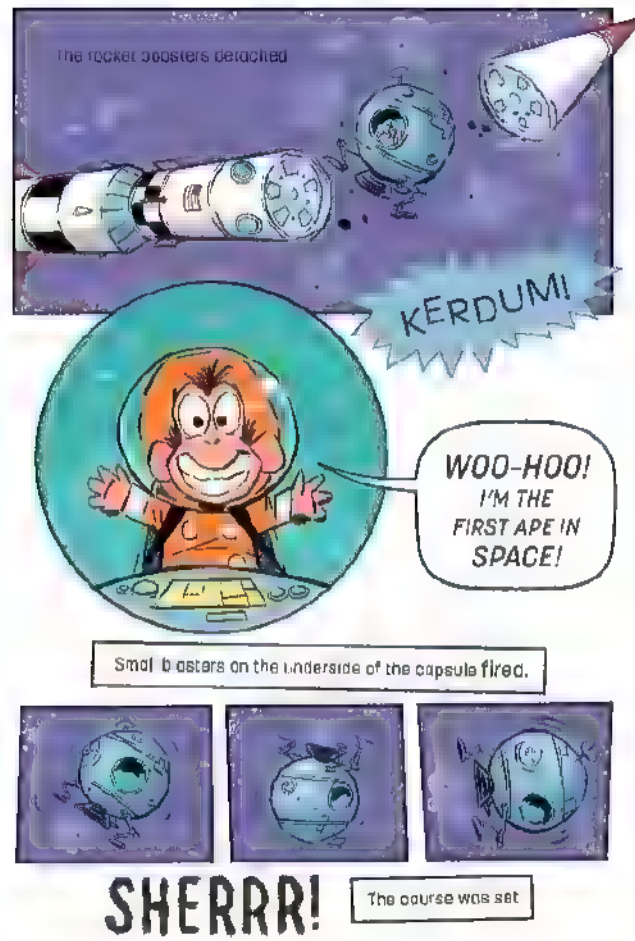
Chump made rude noises from BOTH ENDS



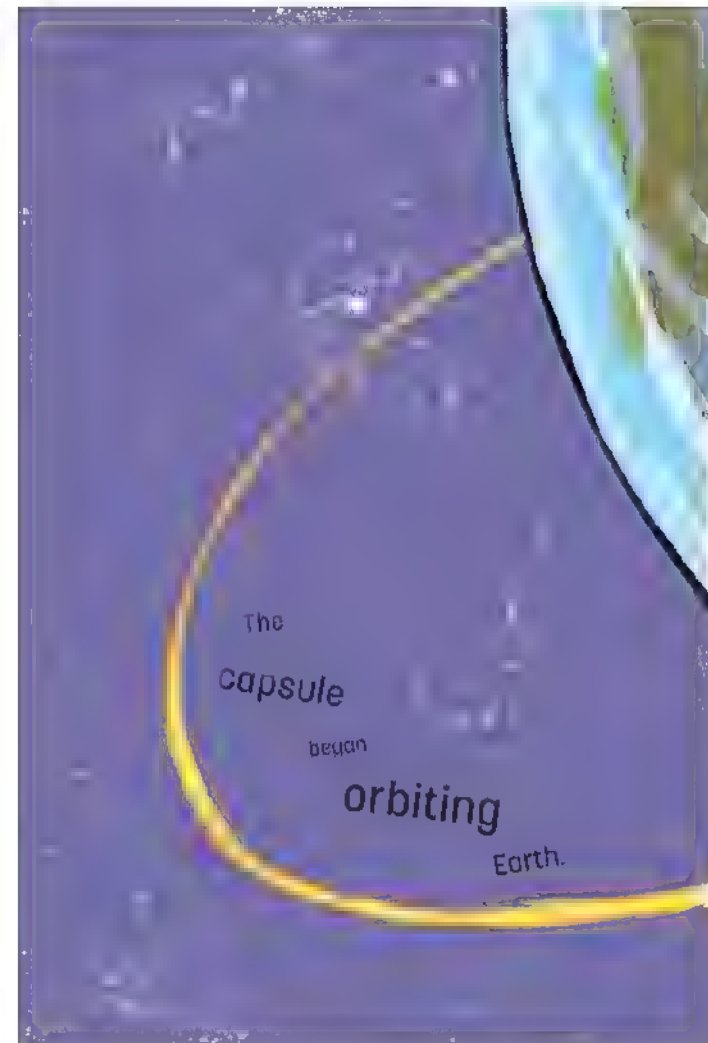
picked his nose with his little toe



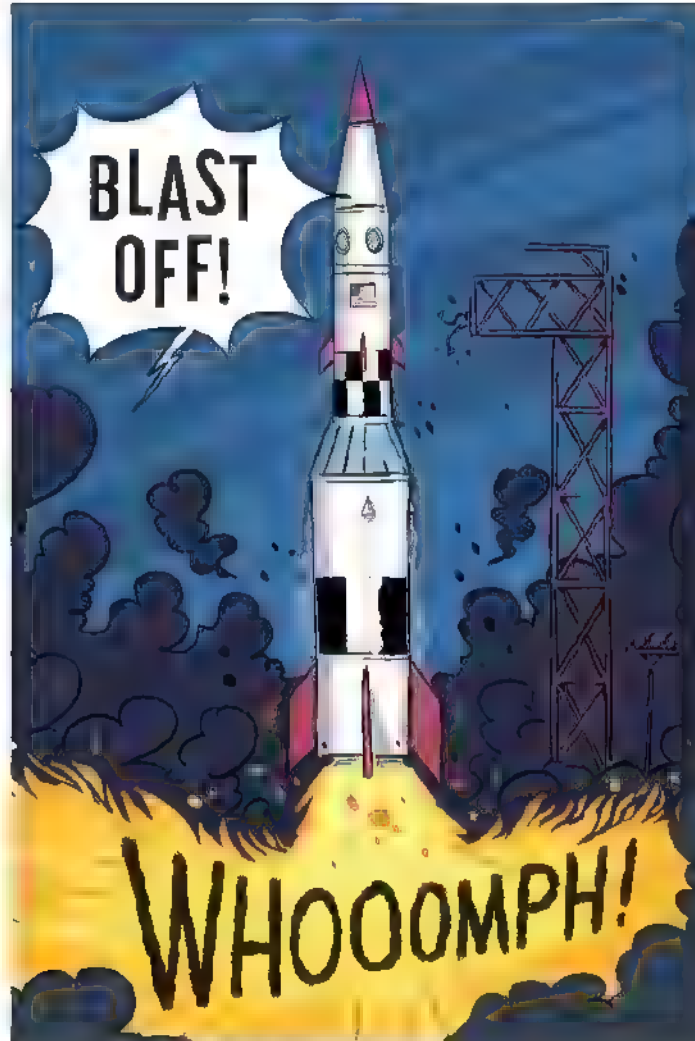


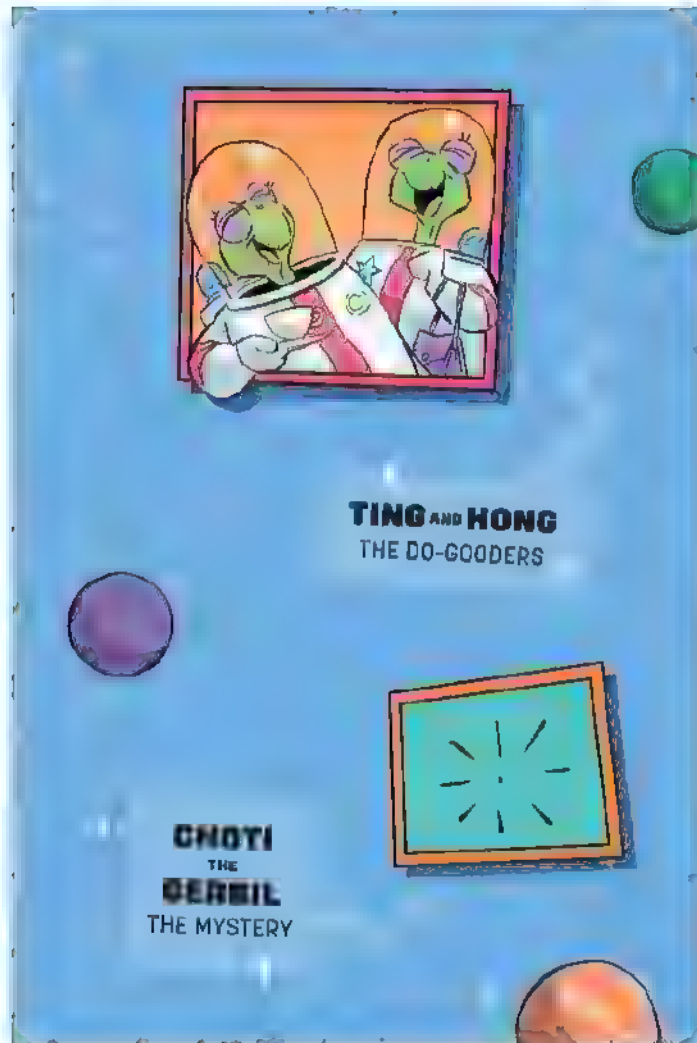


15



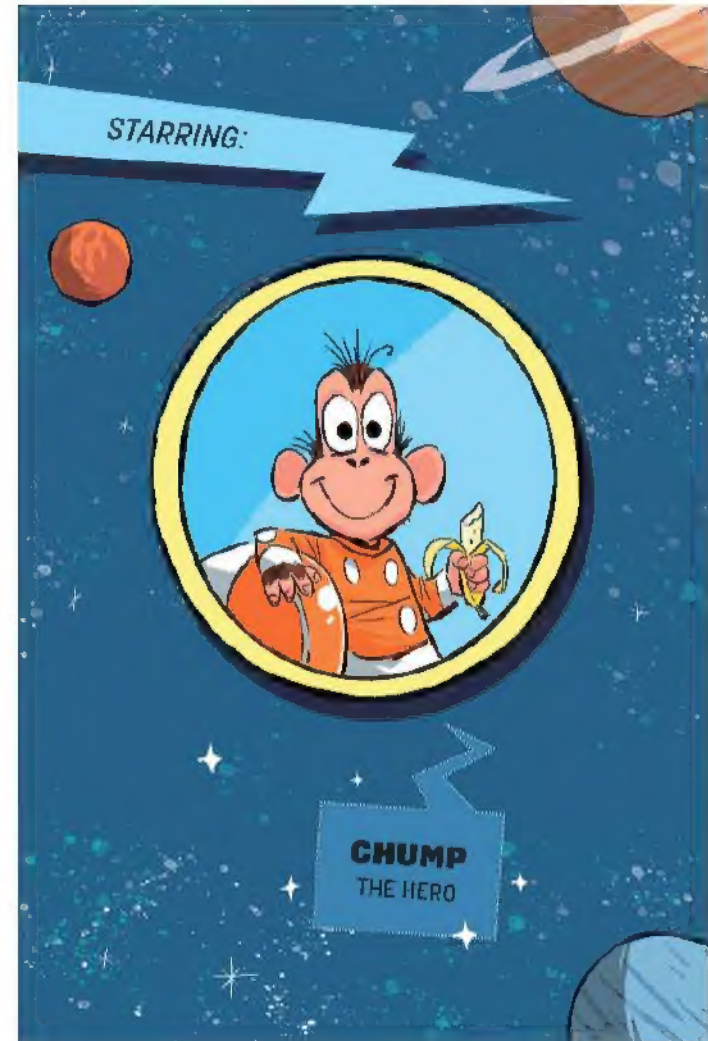












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SINCE THE 1940s,  
HUMANS HAVE BLASTED  
ANIMALS INTO SPACE.  
MOST NEVER RETURNED.  
THIS IS THE STORY OF  
**WHAT HAPPENED  
NEXT.**

